

James and John

Lesson At-A-Glance

Scripture Reference
Mark 10:35-45

Lectionary Sunday/
Church Season
Pentecost 20

Lesson Focus
**Christ gave his life
for us.**

Bible Memory Verse
**And whoever wishes to
be first among you must
be slave of all. Mark
10:44**



Gather (10 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
Arrival Activity Kids learn the Bible Memory Verse (BMV) as they play a game of "hot potato."	Activity Pages 	Ball, paper, pencil
Opening Conversation Kids check in and review lesson content from the previous week.	Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers	Pencils
Opening Prayer Kids pray about being a servant to all.	None	None

Open the Bible (15 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
James and John Story Kids hear the Bible story and consider the disciples' request for a place of honor.	Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers	Pencils
The Greatest Quarterback Kids see greatness in a new way as they hear a contemporary story about a sports star.	Leaflets	None
Semaj dna Nhoj Crossword Kids learn more about James, John, and Jesus as they complete a backward crossword puzzle.	Leaflets	None

Activate Faith (15 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
Fun Facts Kids lead a game show with questions taken from the Fun Facts.	Leaflets	None
Word Tile Scramble Kids cut and paste the word tiles from the leaflet to decode a message.	Leaflets	Scissors, glue sticks

Send (5 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
Closing Conversation Kids review the BMV and learn about the Faith on the Go! options.	Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers, Leaflets	Pencils
Closing Prayer Kids pray for the person to their right.	Family Pages 	None



Visit www.sparksundayschool.org for more Spark content! Watch a short Lesson Prep video that will prepare you and give you confidence to explore this Bible story with the kids you are leading. You will also find four downloadable resources for this lesson: a Coloring Page, a Family Page, and two additional in-class activities.

Gather (10 minutes)

Arrival Activity

If some kids arrive earlier than others and you need a lesson-based activity, make copies of the downloadable Activity Page and set them out for kids to try. This is a BMV Hot Potato game. It can be started with as few as you plus one student playing. As more students arrive to play, add them to the circle and stand outside of it to tally points.

You can write down all kids' names on the piece of paper. Explain directions to the game. **We're going to play a type of Hot Potato game. You'll throw the ball at each word of the BMV. The last person holding the ball at the end of the verse gets a point. We'll add up the points to see who "lost" the most. But in this game, the last shall be first—and win!**

Throw the ball as you help kids say and learn: **Whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all.** See how fast you can get the hot potato game moving.

Opening Conversation

Welcome! I'm glad to see all of you again. Let's catch our breath and hear about each other's weeks. Tell me first, something about school, and second, something about life outside of school. Let's go! Allow time for sharing.

You all are never boring! Now tell me which Faith on the Go! activities you were able to try this week. Allow time for sharing.

Pass out Spark Bibles and pencils. **Who can remember last week's BMV?** If kids remember the BMV, invite them to recite it for the group. If your group remembers parts, help them piece it all together.

Once the kids have mastered the verse, recite it together. Invite kids to place a memorization sticker in their Bibles next to the verse if they haven't done so already.

Nice job. Now, did your brain hang on to the verse from the Hot Potato game when you got here? Raise your hand if you think you can still remember it. Let's hear it then! Invite kids who can to say the verse together. **Let's find out where that is in our Bibles. It's found in Mark 10:44.** Help kids find this passage on page 1114. Invite kids to place one of their stickers near the verse or write "hot potato" in the margins by it.

Spark Resources

Activity Pages



Supplies

Ball
Paper
Pencil

Spark Resources

Spark Bibles
Spark Bible Stickers

Supplies

Pencils

Opening Prayer

Let's pray. Who would like to lead our prayer? Invite two or three kids to read this prayer in unison:

Spark Resources
None

Jesus, your style surprised a lot of people, even your closest friends like James and John. Be with us now as we get to know two regular guys who wanted a little respect for their time with you. Help us to remember what you told them: Whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all. Amen.

Supplies
None

Open the Bible (15 minutes)

James and John Story

Gather in a circle. **Today we're going to meet James and John, two of Jesus' disciples. They asked a funny thing of Jesus: To sit at his left and at his right.**

Spark Resources
Spark Bibles
Spark Bible Stickers

Has anyone seen an Olympic medal ceremony? What happens when an athlete wins a gold medal? (*The winner stands on a platform.*) **Where do the second and third place winners stand?** (*The bronze and silver medalists stand on lower platforms to the left and right of the gold medal winner.*) **Olympic officials hand out the medals, and then the winner's national anthem is played. The scene looks like this.** Recruit three kids, putting the tallest in the middle. Pretend to place a medal around their necks, then sing some of your national anthem.

Supplies
Pencils

Everyone can be seated. **If you aren't the first place winner, what are the next best places?** (*to the left or right of the winner*) **The same idea was true in Jesus' time: Sitting at the left or right of someone was a place of honor, a big deal.**

Let's read the story about James and John. I'm going to read it, and whenever you hear me say, "Left," move as quickly as you can to my left side. Likewise, whenever you hear me say, "Right," move as quickly as you can to my right side. If I say "servant," sit down! Read Mark 10:35-45 from page 1114 of the Spark Bible.

After reading, ask: **Why do you think Jesus didn't want James and John at his right and left?** (*Jesus would not be on a throne, but killed on a cross.*) **Do you think James and John knew what they were asking for?** (*No!*) **How do you think James, John, and the other disciples reacted when Jesus said he came to serve, not to be served?** Accept all answers.

The Greatest Quarterback

Let's read a modern story that helps explain the kind of greatness Jesus spoke about.

Spark Resources
Leaflets

Read The Greatest Quarterback from the first leaflet page. **What sports or movie star would you like to hang out with? Though we aren't famous, how can we show true greatness in our lives?**

Supplies
None

Discuss the I Wonder statements. As you talk, encourage kids to think about ways that they can serve others to live out Jesus' example. **What ways can you serve others right now? What about in ten years?**

Semaj dna Nhoj Crossword

Let's do the crossword puzzle on the second page of our leaflet. This crossword turns things around, because the across clues go from right to left, and the down clues go from down to up. Remember, if you need help, use Mark 10:35-45.

Spark Resources
Leaflets

Answer Key

Supplies
None

Across

1. Jesus' life was given as a RANSOM (spelled MOSNAR)
3. Jesus did not rule like a TYRANT (TNARYT)
6. Drink from this: CUP (PUC)
7. Gospel of MARK (KRAM)
8. How many disciples were there? TWELVE (EVLEWT)

Down

2. Whoever wishes to be first must be this: SLAVE (EVALS)
3. Disciples often called Jesus this: TEACHER (REHCAET)
4. James and John wanted to sit at Jesus' left and RIGHT (THGIR)
5. Jesus came to SERVE (EVRES)

Activate Faith (15 minutes)

Fun Facts

We're going to read the Fun Facts on the third page of the leaflet—but with a twist. I would like you all to read one (any one, but they should all get read at least once) using your best announcer voice. Give an example of *your* best announcer voice: Slow, dramatic, deep, with stadium echo!

When everyone has had a turn, ask for two volunteers. Then group the remaining kids into teams of two to four. Have the teams sit in clusters. **Our two volunteers are going to be our game show hosts, creating questions from the leaflet Fun Facts. When a question is asked, quickly decide on an answer with your teammates, and then have your team's "buzzer" go off. Each team needs to choose a person to be the buzzer.** Wait a few moments while kids decide. **Okay, buzzers, let's hear your buzzer sound.**

Good. If the team to buzz in first gets the answer correct, one point for them. If not, another team gets a chance to answer correctly. Ready? Leaflets down!

If the two volunteers are able to create questions from the leaflet Fun Facts, have them take turns doing so. If not, help them out with the following taken from the Fun Facts and the Bible story:

- 1. What was the name of John's brother?** (*James*)
- 2. How many disciples were there?** (*twelve*)
- 3. What job did James and John have before they followed Jesus?** (*fishermen*)
- 4. What was James and John's father's name?** (*Zebedee*)
- 5. What nickname did James and John have?** (*Sons of Thunder*)
- 6. What was James and John's mother's name?** (*Salome*)
- 7. If you want to honor someone, do you seat him or her behind you, beside you, in the next room, or on top of you?** (*beside you*)
- 8. Who was James and John's king?** (*Jesus*)
- 9. Who is the greatest among you?** (*the servant*)
- 10. Why did Jesus come to earth?** (*to serve, to give his life for us*)

Nice job everyone. Let's give a round of applause to our game show hosts!

Spark Resources
Leaflets

Supplies
None

Word Tile Scramble

Let's do the Word Tile Scramble on the third leaflet page. Ask a volunteer to read the instructions. Help kids see that spaces are included between words. You can also point out that when words are assembled correctly, an image will form behind the letters.

Spark Resources
Leaflets

Supplies
Scissors
Glue sticks

Answer Key

Who eve r_w ish es_ to_ be_ fir st_ amo
ng_ you _mu st_ be_ sla ve_ of_ all _fo
r_t he_ Son _of _Ma n_c ame _no t_t o_b
e_s erv ed_ but _to _se rve

Send (5 minutes)

Closing Conversation

Gather the kids in a circle. **We've had a great time today learning all about Jesus' disciples James and John. Let's review the BMV before we close.**

Spark Resources
Spark Bibles
Spark Bible Stickers
Leaflets

Open Bibles to Mark 10:44 on page 1114. Invite kids to review it silently then recite it as a group. Let kids volunteer to say it to the group as well.

If they haven't done so already, encourage kids to place a sticker next to the BMV, and write any notes in the margin that they'd like to remember about the verse or the story.

Supplies
Pencils

Next, direct the kids' attention to Faith on the Go! on the back leaflet page. Read and discuss kids' thoughts on these. **Which ones do you want to try to do this week?** Remind the kids to report back next time.

Closing Prayer

Let's pray for the person sitting to our right, and the person to our left can pray for us. You can say a sentence or even just one word, like "health" or "to have a good week." You can tap that person on your right when you're done so that he or she can pray for the person on his or her right.

I'll start and we'll go around our circle. Before we do, let's take a minute to think silently about what the person next to us said when we were talking about our weeks. That can help us decide what to pray for. Pause for silence.

Let us pray: God, we give you thanks for your servants James and John and also for these kids learning about you today. Bless each one of them this week. I pray especially for (Name) and pray (insert prayer petition here). Tap the person to your right. Amen.

Be sure to send leaflets home with kids, and give each of them a Family Page to take home.

Spark Resources

Family Pages



Supplies

None