

# KINGDOM INSPIRED DIVERSITY (LARGE GROUP)

## Lesson 2: So You want to be the G.O.A.T?

Objective: Students will learn that to be the greatest of all time, they need to be a servant first



### GAMES/ACTIVITY:

1-Minute to Win It Game: Balloon Blow, Cup Stacking are the first two on the video . <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1uj7Zo3fjt8> You will need cups and balloons.

2-Heads or Tails <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O5rOYrt0Lc4> Pretty simple game. You will need a coin.

### MESSAGE:

Who is the greatest basketball player? (Allow students to call out answers.)

Who is the greatest football player? Soccer? (Choose your sport)

Who is the greatest of all time in basketball? In other words, who is the GOAT? If you are the greatest of all time like Michael Jordan in basketball or the Williams sisters in tennis then you have to be the best. You have more championships and rings and trophies than anyone else in your sport or field.

In the world we live in, everyone is always trying to be the best at something. People want to be known for something unique and exceptional. Maybe we aren't superstars in the sports world but maybe you are the best musician or video game player. We all have that motivation to be standing at the top of the mountain for something. The danger of being on the top of the mountain is that it causes us to look down on people who are not as exceptional as we think we are. That feeling that makes us look down on others and over-exaggerate our talents is called pride.

Two disciples of Jesus were wanting to be at Jesus' right hand and left hand when he became king. Hint, they wanted to be the greatest in that moment. Funny how the Bible talks to us about things that are still relevant issues 2000 years later. Jesus has something to say about being the greatest, about being the GOAT. Listen to Mark retell the situation..

When the ten heard about this, they became indignant with James and John. <sup>42</sup> Jesus called them together and said, "You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. <sup>43</sup> Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, <sup>44</sup> and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. <sup>45</sup> For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

The other 10 disciples hear about the request and are upset. Maybe because they wanted to ask that same question or because they thought it disrespectful. Whatever the feelings to the request, Jesus teaches them all an important lesson. Pride has no place in Jesus' kingdom. Looking down on people because you think that you are somehow better than them is unacceptable with Jesus as king. He makes that very point. Of all people who had a right to be bossy and rude and superior and prideful, it was Jesus. Did you hear what Jesus said? The Son of Man is Jesus. It is an Old Testament reference to the

king of Israel. This king, Jesus, did not come to be served. Jesus came to serve. Now the word serve is an important one.

Jesus came to minister, to help, to serve the people not to sit on a throne and look down on the people. Jesus asks. "So you want to be the GOAT? Well then you have to be a servant. You want to be first, then you have to be last. You want to be strong, then you have to be weak." Jesus is the king of the upside-down kingdom! If you want to be the best, then you have to be the least. That means self-pride has to die. A desire to be primary has to be sacrificed so that you can become secondary. This is not easy to hear. It is not easy to do.

If you, like the disciples, want to be followers of Jesus, then you have to die to your pride, You have to die to your desire to be on the top. You have to give up being the GOAT and accept the humble position of being a servant. That is what He said . . . Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.

The cross was a symbol of shame and punishment. It is the symbol of being humble. Jesus came from Heaven to Earth sacrificing being in His Father's presence to put on human skin. He moved into the neighborhood. He lived with us and for us. More importantly, He died for us , forgiving those of us that have put our trust in Him. Jesus invites us to do the same. To be great in the kingdom, you deny yourself. . . .your wants, hopes, and desires. You die daily. You pick up your cross and you serve. You serve those that are different and looked down upon. You reach out to those that are on the outskirts, on the margins because that is what Jesus did for you and for me. If we are disciples, racism and discrimination have no place in the kingdom because the root of those actions and ideas is pride. As believers in Jesus, we serve anyone and everyone because we are second. You want to be the GOAT in the kingdom, then you gotta be a servant just like Jesus.

## **PRAY**

## **QUESTIONS**

- 1-Who is the greatest \_\_\_\_\_ in your life?
- 2-What does it take to become great?
- 3-How does Jesus' definition of great flip things upside down?
- 4-What is holding you back from becoming a servant like Jesus commands?
- 5-What are two ways that you can be a servant the way Jesus commands this week?

