

Read Mark 10.35-45

You may like to use this material as a basis for discussion in your family.



In today's gospel reading two of Jesus' disciples, James and John, ask Jesus for special positions and recognition. They assume that Jesus is going to Jerusalem to be made into a king. They want everyone to see that they are special followers of Jesus, so they ask Jesus if they can sit on each side of him when he is crowned king. They don't understand that Jesus is talking about God's kingdom. Jesus tells them that they are mistaken. He says that his followers will have to be servants to other people. Jesus says that it is not about power or position, but about showing love for other people by serving others.

What do you think was wrong with James and John's request? Why do you think the other disciples were cross with James and John?

Have you ever been asked to lead something – for example, a football team, a music group, prayers in church or at school etc? Did you feel important? Were there special responsibilities that you had to take on with your role? Most important people have to accept responsibilities when they become a leader.

One person who has shown this example of service and authority is Queen Elizabeth II, who has been queen for nearly 70 years. She is a committed Christian and has always been conscious of a strong sense of duty and service. Her life has shown that she has always put duty and service before her personal comfort or pleasures. Even at the early age of 21 she made this statement "I declare before you all that my whole life, whether long or short, shall be devoted to your service and the service of our great imperial family to which we all belong." Her faith in God has helped her to carry out this vow.



Can you think of any other important leaders who have shown this example of serving others?

How can you help to look after other people in your community? Being a servant to others might involve a small act of thoughtfulness, or be on the scale of the efforts made by so many during the pandemic. What act of service can you offer to someone today?

Activity

- Bake some biscuits. But before you start, get all the ingredients together and think about what part they each play. Are all the ingredients equally important? Could you leave anything out and still get biscuits worth sharing? Even if you only need a small amount of one item, would it be missed if you didn't add it? Appreciate that many things have to come together to make the recipe work. Could you share your biscuits with someone who needs some kindness and a chat?

Prayer

Lord, take our thoughts and turn them into prayer.

Take our prayer and turn it into love.

Take our love and turn it into a life of service to others.
in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.