

A Topsy Turvy World

Theme

The last shall be first

Object

None needed

Scripture

Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, "If anyone wants to be first, he must be the very last, and the servant of all." Mark 9:35 (NIV)

Have you ever heard someone say, "We live in a 'Topsy Turvy' world?" Do you know what that means? It means that everything is the opposite of what people think it should be. Everything is backward or upside down. It means that things are confused and disorganized because everything is happening in the wrong order. Here is a poem that I learned in school that might help you to understand it a little bit better.

If Things Grew Down

by Robert D. Hoeft

If things grew down instead of up,
A dog would grow into a pup.
A cat would grow into a kitten,
Your sweater would grow into a mitten.
A cow would grow into a calf,
A whole would grow into a half.

Big would grow into something small,
And small would grow into nothing at all!

It would really be confusing if we lived in a world like that, wouldn't it? That must have been how the disciples felt one day when Jesus was trying to teach them a lesson about who was the greatest in the Kingdom of God.

Jesus and his disciples were walking along the road when Jesus heard them arguing among themselves. When they arrived at the house where they were going, Jesus asked them, "What were you arguing about on the road?" The disciples didn't answer because they were embarrassed. You see, they had been arguing about which of them was the greatest. But they didn't have to say anything, because Jesus already knew.

"So you want first place, do you?" Jesus said. "Then you must take the last place. If you want to be the greatest, then you must be a servant to all." Then Jesus called a small child over to him and put his arms around him. "If anyone welcomes a little child like this, he welcomes me, and anyone who welcomes me welcomes my Father who sent me."

The disciples must have thought, "What a Topsy Turvy world! If you want to be first, you have to go to the end of the line! If you want to be the greatest, you must become a servant! If you want to be important, you have to become like a little child!"

The teachings of Jesus are very different from the way most people think today. We live in a world where people want to be first. They want power and influence. They think that adults are more important than children, but in God's Kingdom, the children are just as important as anyone. Aren't you glad they are?

Dear Father, we thank you for your love for children. Help us to remember as we grow older, that to be great in your sight, we must come to you as a child. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Sermon Title: "A Topsy Turvy World"

Scripture Reading: Mark 9:30-37

FIRST AND LAST BIBLE BOOKS GAME:

Divide the children into groups of any size. The teacher will give two books of the Bible and choose a group to answer which book comes FIRST and which book comes LAST in the Bible. Continue to play the game so each group will have a chance at answer (Examples: Matthew and Revelation; John and Jude, Genesis and Psalms.)

BACKWARD WORDS:

The teacher will hand out papers with words from our Bible less that are spelled backwards with some of the letters missing. The children can try to figure out what letters are missing and then shout out the word when they think they have the correct word figured out!

BACKWARD RELAY:

Divide the children into teams. This relay will be easy as far as directions but everything will be run BACKWARDS. For example, the children can run to the line BACKWARDS and grab a hat and put it on BACKWARDS and run back to the team. The next player will run to the line and put on a t-shirt BACKWARDS, etc. There can be one item for each child to grab and put on backwards for the relay. Ask children what was backwards in our lesson today.

"IF THINGS GREW DOWN" POEM:

Give children a typed copy or the poem from today's lesson. Have them glue the poem to a larger piece of paper and draw pictures of things that are upside down around the poem. Write the following paraphrase of today's Bible Verse at the bottom of the page below the poem. "THE FIRST MUST BE LAST AND THE SERVANT OF ALL!"

MARK 9:35

1st PLACE RIBBON:

Give the children a piece of construction paper in the shape of a ribbon. Let the children decorate their 1st Place Ribbon with heart stickers, and markers. Write MY HEART (draw a heart instead of the word) belongs to JESUS!

TOPSY TURVY CUPCAKE SNACKS:

The teacher might like to bake some Topsy Turvy cupcakes for today's snacks. [CLICK HERE](#) for a recipe.

SING A SONG:

TO BE LIKE JESUS

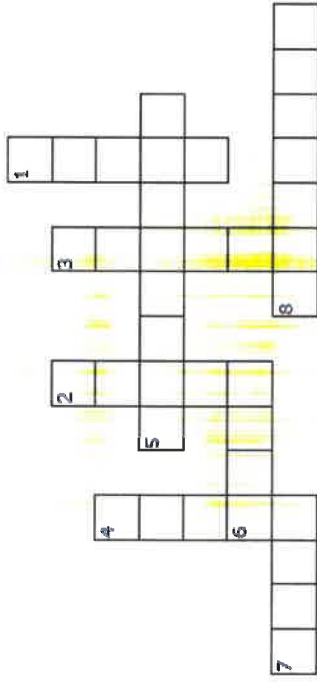
Song: "To Be Like Jesus

"

Words and Music (pdf)

MP3 Accompaniment Track (right click to save to your computer)

Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

- A person or thing of the highest quality or character
- The one coming after all others
- A public way for the travel of vehicles, people, and animals
- Someone who is employed to perform services for others

LITTLE ROAD

LAST FIRST

SERVANT CHILD

GREATEST HOUSE

DOWN

- A building where people live, especially a family
- The one coming before all others
- Small in size
- A very young person



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Children's Worship Bulletin

Who Is the Greatest?

Mark 9:30-37

Word Search Puzzle

C V U L Z W W H O E E V E R T S
M W M L I P F T N R E K I B B
D L W C S T R I H O U S E B W
Z Q K U G U T K R U E B Y T C
A X S J V G I L A S L K G E B
Q E P I G M E T E A T A X Y P
J A R H D Z H D Q R R Y S F T
Q K B O A F W H G J U Q T G
F Q X V R F G U Q U G R W Q R
L A S E M D I U U I A O P D E
F M I V S O H K I N K A T K A
W E L C O M E S E G F D S X T
C H I L D Z Q D T R O M K W E
K B T W E L V E O Z K C L M S
W Z C W W Y S E R V A N T U T

WELCOMES
LITTLE
WHOEVER

SERVANT
ARMS
ROAD

FIRST
CHILD
TWELVE

GREATEST
ARGUING
QUIET

JESUS
LAST
HOUSE

Church Name
Address
City

Coloring Page



Jesus and the Children

ABC Order

Write the words from the Word Bank in ABC order.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.

DISCIPLES	HOUSE	JESUS	GREATEST	CHILDREN
SERVANT	ROAD	LAST	ARMS	FIRST





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