

LESSON SNAPSHOT

BOTTOM LINE:

Whoever wants to become great must become the least.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will learn that to be great, I must serve others.

KEY PASSAGE:

Mark 10:35-45, James and John's Request

MEMORY VERSE:

*"But anyone who drinks the water I give them will never be thirsty. In fact, the water I give them will become a spring of water in them. It will flow up into eternal life."
- John 4:14 (NIV)*

SUMMARY:

Pizza Hut once told their customers to "Make It Great." One time John and James came to Jesus with a request: to make them great enough to sit at his right and his left in heaven. Jesus revealed to them, in order to be great you must be a servant to others.

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Teach us to be great by serving others.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*

MEMORY VERSE

“But anyone who drinks the water I give them will never be thirsty. In fact, the water I give them will become a spring of water in them. It will flow up into eternal life.”

- John 4:14 (NirV)

“But whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.” - John 4:14 (NIV)

LARGE GROUP:

Read the verse in a normal speed with the kids. Then read it super slow. Then read it super fast!

SMALL GROUP:

Have the kids each recite or read the verse in the voice of their favorite cartoon character.

SKIT

MAKE IT GREAT

ITEMS NEEDED:

Two small tables
Two chairs
Two phones with tripods or stands
A pizza box

CHARACTER BREAKDOWN:

1M, 1F

CHARACTERS:

Pat – A YouTube host specializing in fast food
Jim – A YouTube host who talks about faith

Each week, the set for these skits will be the same: two small tables with a chair behind each table.

Pat enters with a pizza box and sits at the table stage left. She sets up her phone on a small tripod or stand to film herself.

PAT: Hey, guys, it's Pat, and it's time for another edition of Fast Food Fun! Remember to click the like button and subscribe to my channel so you can enjoy more of my videos and I can make gobs of money without having to actually work!

Jim enters and sits at the table next to Pat. He sets up his own tripod and has his own pizza box.

PAT: Today I'm going to do another unboxing video. I'm at a pizza place that says they are, "Makin' it Great!" So let's open this box and see how great their pizza really is!

JIM: What's up, dudes? Jim here, with another edition of Fast Faith! If you haven't already, click the subscribe button to tell YouTube you love me, and let's get on with today's video!

PAT: You again!

SKIT

JIM: Why Pat! Fancy seeing you here at this pizza joint.

PAT: Will you go away? I'm trying to do my show here!

JIM: Pat works hard to make the greatest web show about fast food on YouTube, don't you?

PAT: Yes I do.

JIM: Pat, do you know the secret to being the greatest?

PAT: No interruptions?

JIM: If you want to be the greatest, you have to be least.

PAT: What? That makes no sense!

JIM: Sure it does!

PAT: How?

JIM: Jesus said whomever wanted to be the greatest had to become the servant of all.

PAT: But I thought great people had servants.

JIM: Great people become great because they put other people first. They meet their needs. They serve their friends and neighbors and their community.

PAT: That makes no sense?

JIM: Pat, do you remember the episode you posted a few weeks ago when you tried a certain restaurant's new cheesy fries?

PAT: How could I forget? They were awful!

JIM: I was all excited to try those fries for myself, but when I saw your video, I knew they weren't worth the trouble. So I went someplace else.

PAT: You watch my videos?

JIM: Of course I do. You provide a great service to your viewers, and that's what makes you a great YouTube star!

SKIT

PAT: Oh, I see what you mean. We become greater by doing great things for other people and not ourselves.

JIM: This girl gets it! I hope you do too! I'll see you next time on Fast Faith!

PAT: Hey, wait! Don't run off. You wanna try this pizza with me?

JIM: Is that... anchovies?

PAT: It sure is!

JIM: Then serve me up a slice. I love anchovies!!

OBJECT LESSON OR KIDS SERMON

ITEMS NEEDED:

A pizza box

How many of you have had a pizza delivered to your house in the last couple of weeks? How long did it take to get the pizza? More important question: how good was the pizza when it arrived? Was it still hot and fresh?

How do you get to be the number one pizza company in America? Having a lot of menu items at a good price with good coupons will get you far, but not as far as having the best service. That's the secret to any restaurant's success. If you want to be the best, you have to have the best service. If the pizza is made with care, if it's made correctly, and if it's delivered on schedule, you're going to rise to the top. If you fail to deliver on any of these service promises, well, you may not be around for long.

Jesus says that anyone who wants to be great in His kingdom must become the servant of others. God wants us to love and serve our families, friends, neighbors, everyone we meet. We must put the needs of others ahead of our own desires. We must seek not to be served, but to serve others in Jesus' name.

Being great means being the greatest servant. Being great means we are makin' it great for others. Let's ask God to give us a servant's heart so we can better share God's great love with everyone.

LARGE GROUP GAME

SPIN ME ROUND

ITEMS NEEDED:

Pepperonis

2 Buckets

INSTRUCTIONS:

Choose two teams for this game. Give each kid a pepperoni and set the buckets up to create a finish line. Have the kids line up so that each team forms a line facing the buckets. Have the first child on each team balance their pepperoni on their forehead. When you say go, they must both spin around in a circle once and then race to put their pepperoni in the bucket. They cannot touch the pepperoni with their hands. If it hits the floor they have to go back to the start, put it on their forehead, spin, and go again. Whichever team gets all their pepperonis in the bucket first wins.

WHAT'S THE POINT?

If we want to “make it great,” we must serve others.

LARGE GROUP LESSON

BOTTOM LINE:

Whoever wants to become great must become the least.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will learn that to be great, I must serve others.

KEY PASSAGE:

Mark 10:35-45, James and John's Request

INTRO:

One of the greatest wars in the history of mankind has waged for decades now. It's happened not in the far away land, but right here in America. It's a war between powerful forces, a battle between sworn enemies, all competing to become the ultimate victor. There have been many small factions competing in this battle, but let's be honest. This war is all about three titans competing to be the best so that they can destroy the other two once and for all. I'm talking of course about the war between Dominos, Papa Johns, and Pizza Hut.

When it's big game night or family game night, there's nothing easier than opening the app on your phone and ordering a pizza for delivery. The only question is: who will you choose? Papa Johns wants you to know that better ingredients make a better pizza. Dominos uses the slogan "Oh yes we did!" to remind us that they were crazy enough to completely reinvent their recipes in order to win back customers. And Pizza Hut appeals to us with the straightforward slogan, "Makin' it great!"

So who do you order pizza from the most, and how do you decide who gets your business? Sometimes you don't have a choice. If Dominos is the only pizza place in your area, you're calling Dominos. If you have points saved up for a free pizza from Papa Johns, that's a no-brainer. But for most people it comes down to one question: who delivers best? Who works the hardest to consistently deliver on that promise? Does Papa Johns really make a better pizza? Did Dominos really change for the good? Do you think Pizza Hut really does make it great?

We want our pizza to be hot and fresh and accurate. If your pizza arrives 90 minutes later, ice cold, with half the cheese falling off and no pepperoni like you asked, odds are you're not going to call that pizza place again.

LARGE GROUP LESSON

The pizza giants can make all the promises they want, but at the end of the day, the pizza restaurant that gives the best service wins.

If you want to be great, like Pizza Hut proclaims, you have to be great at serving. That's the lesson Jesus teaches his disciples in today's scripture.

READ MARK 10:35-45

MAIN POINT:

John and James asked Jesus a bold question. How can we become the greatest of your disciples? How do we earn a place not just at your table, but right next to you? John and James were thinking in worldly terms. When we think of greatness we think of money and power and prestige. We think of businessmen and politicians and top name celebrities – people who love to show the world how great they are.

Jesus turns their world upside down by saying, "The greatest of you is the one who is the least." If you want to be great, you have to become less. You must serve others. You must put your friends, your neighbors, everyone above your own self-interest. Love others and meet their needs. That is the secret of greatness.

If we want to be great, we will put others first. We will serve whole-heartedly, and in doing so, we will show God's love to everyone.

DRIVE IT HOME:

Pizza Hut, Papa Johns, and Dominos spend a lot of money advertising how great they are. All three companies are constantly working on their recipes. They all seek out better ingredients to make better pizzas. All three of them work hard to have the best app so they can make ordering quick and convenient. They are constantly creating new innovations to improve delivery, like the delivery bags that keep your pizza hot while it's in transit. They use technology to improve the ordering process, the baking process, and even the delivery time. The cooks work hard to make every pizza perfect. The drivers work hard to reach your doorstep on time. They hustle every night to become the greatest by becoming the greatest at serving pizza.

We can learn a lot from the way these pizza places hustle. Instead of sitting back and basking in our status as God's children, we need to get our hands in the dough. We need to turn our attention to the world around us and ask God to show us where we are needed.

Who among your classmates needs help with something? Who in your school needs a friend? Who among your neighbors could use a hand with some yard work? What can you do to make life easier for Mom and Dad at home?

LARGE GROUP LESSON

If we become the greatest by becoming the least, we need to spend less time entertaining ourselves so we can focus on others. That means shutting off the TV and logging off Fortnite to do things like vacuum, dust, scrub toilets, and pull weeds. We need to think less about the new toys we want and think, "What can I give away that might be a blessing to someone else?" We need to give up playtime to lend a hand at church or in the community so that others can be blessed.

Pizza Hut does a lot of bragging on TV, but you won't see that bravado in their kitchens. They work hard to make it great every time by delivering the best service. Let's strive to serve God as hard as they do to make pizza. Let's become the greatest by becoming the least. Let's bless our world by serving the way Jesus did.

CLOSE WITH A SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Teach us to be great by serving others.

In Jesus' name,

Amen

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (K-2ND)

ICEBREAKER:

Who is your family's favorite pizza place?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:

John 4:14

Look at the verses surrounding this passage, or read the whole chapter so you can hear this verse in context. What was happening? How do the verses before and after the memory verse help you understand its meaning?

SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY:

Give each of the kids in your group a chance to test their pizza spinning skills with a lump of pizza dough.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Read Mark 10:35-45

What did James and John ask Jesus to let them do?

How did Jesus respond to them?

What does Jesus mean when He says, "Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant"?

How can we become great by serving others?

What are some simple things we can do this week to serve others?

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Show us how we can serve others so they can know you love them.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (3-5TH)

ICEBREAKER:

Who is your family's favorite pizza place?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:

John 4:14

Look at the verses surrounding this passage, or read the whole chapter so you can hear this verse in context. What was happening? How do the verses before and after the memory verse help you understand its meaning?

SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY:

Give each of the kids in your group a chance to test their pizza spinning skills with a lump of pizza dough.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Read Mark 10:35-45

Why did James and John ask Jesus to let them sit by His side?

Why did Jesus say, "Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant"?

How did Jesus set an example for us in serving others?

How can we become great by serving others?

What are some simple things we can do this week to serve others?

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Show us how we can serve others so they can know you love them.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*

POWERPOINT REVIEW GAME

MULTIPLE CHOICE

1. What two disciples asked to sit by Jesus' side in Heaven?
 - A. Simon and Andrew
 - B. Nathaniel and Philip
 - C. John and James*

2. When the other disciples heard about James and John's request, they were _____.
 - A. happy
 - B. sad
 - C. angry*

3. What did Jesus say about those who want to be great?
 - A. They have to serve others.*
 - B. They have to get elected.
 - C. They have to fight for it.

4. Why did Jesus come to Earth?
 - A. to be served
 - B. to serve others*
 - C. to have servants wait on Him

5. If we want to be great, we need to _____.
 - A. go to college
 - B. sit up front in church
 - C. serve other people*



MAKE IT STICK

5 Simple Ways You Can Make This Lesson Stick With your Kids

Fast Faith Lesson 3

THIS WEEK'S LESSON: MAKE ME GREAT



IN THE CAR:

Ask your child what they learned about this week on the drive home:

Pizza Hut once told their customers to “Make It Great.” One time John and James came to Jesus with a request: to make them great enough to sit at his right and his left in heaven. Jesus revealed to them, in order to be great you must be a servant to others. Mark 10:35-45, James and John’s Request



HANGING OUT:

Make this week’s lesson real:

Ask your kids which restaurants they think do the best job serving people. Ask them why they work so hard to give great service. Ask them what they are doing this week to serve others.



AT DINNER:

Here are some great discussion starters:

- How does Jesus say we can become great?
- How can we become great by serving others?
- What are some simple things we can do to serve others?



AT BEDTIME:

Quiz your child on this week’s memory verse:

“But anyone who drinks the water I give them will never be thirsty. In fact, the water I give them will become a spring of water in them. It will flow up into eternal life.” John 4:14 (NirV)



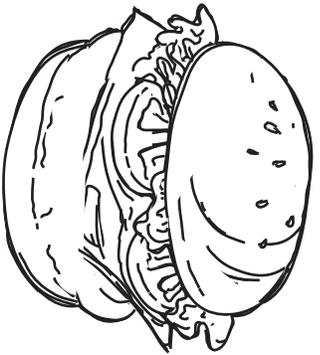
PARENT TIME:

What you need to know:

Jesus led by example and became the servant of everyone He encountered. Ask God to help you model that service for your children, and encourage them when they have the opportunity to serve.

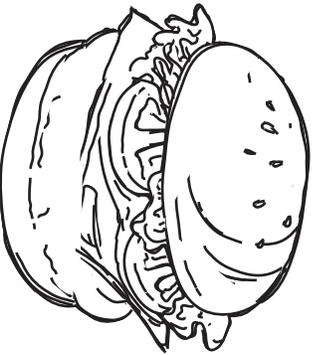
CRAFT ACTIVITY

Give each kid a paper plate, and have them color the plate like a cheese pizza. Give them seven round red circles for pepperoni, but do not stick them to the pizza. Put them in a baggie. Encourage the kids to do one act of service each day this week, and when they do, to put one pepperoni on the pizza. Who can fill their pizzas up by the following Sunday?



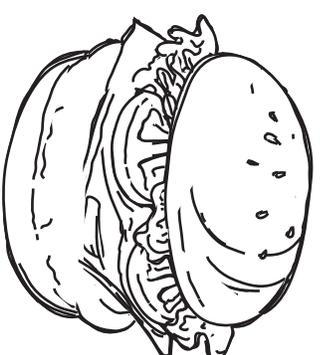
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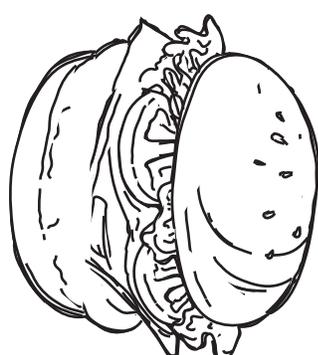
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