

Priming the Pump

1. Begin by reading the Scripture for this week's message, Luke 9:46-50
2. The point in Jesus' parable this week is that greatness is defined by servanthood. Reflect on someone in your background whom you view as truly great. How were they a servant?

Getting into the Word

3. The teaching on being great through service is recorded in all three synoptic Gospels. Read each passage and consider the different points of emphasis or additional verbiage in each. After reading all three, combine them together as your own statement on the issue; how you would summarize this teaching in one sentence.
 - a. Matthew 18:1-4
 - b. Mark 9:33-37
 - c. Luke 9:46-50
 - d. Write a one-sentence summary of your thoughts on this topic:

Digging Deeper

4. The second part of this week's message (Luke 9:49-50) concerned the disciples' desire that others must be part of their group and do things their way. There is a parallel passage to this in Mark 9:38-41. The two errors the disciples made were in trying to stop someone else from doing good works in Jesus' name, and judging the person for not following them ("us"). Has anyone ever been overly critical of your ministry/service because your methods were different from theirs, or has anyone ever tried to place a stumbling block in front of you while you were serving the Lord? Flipping to the other side of the coin, have you ever done this to someone else?