

Jesus shows how to be the best

This session can be done with an adult family member or independently. Answers to questions can be written in the spaces provided.

How do you feel if you see someone showing off?

Why do you think some people show off?

Bible reading

The following story is from Mark 9:33-37.

Jesus and his friends came to a place called Capernaum. During the journey his friends had been arguing about who was the best. When they all were in the house, Jesus asked them, “What were you arguing about?” But they were too embarrassed to say anything. Jesus knew anyway, so he sat down and told them all to listen to him. He said, “If any one of you really wants to be the best then you have to be willing to not be the first person to get noticed. You need to be kind and do things for other people without wanting anything in return. That’s what being the best is really all about.” He then took a child in his arms and said, “If you are kind to children like this child here, then you are showing that you really do love me.”

Why do you think Jesus' friends felt too embarrassed to say what they had been arguing about?

Why do you think Jesus says we should help other people without wanting anything in return?

What does this story show us about what Jesus is like?

At the time when Jesus was telling this story, there were lots of people in Israel who enjoyed showing off. The Romans liked showing off about how strong they were. Some Israelites enjoyed showing off about how good they were at praying and doing good things. Jesus was saying that being the best isn't being like that at all. It's about being kind and doing things for other people where we can without wanting anything back. That's what God sees as being the best.

Prayer time

Thank Jesus that he shows us how to be the best. Ask him to help you be kind and do things for others that show them what he is like.

