

Being Great Means Serving!

By RLD Editorial Team

for use as
STEP 1 

Lesson 9**Focus:**

Jesus defined
“greatness” as
serving others.

Lesson 9**Bible Basis:**

Mark 10:35-45

Lesson 9**Memory Verse:**

“For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many” —Mark 10:45

Students will watch a video about teens choosing to serve others as they explore Jesus’ definition of greatness.

Materials:

- Internet access
- Whiteboard and markers (or screenshared document)

As students join your group time today, reminisce about the wonderful holiday season that students recently celebrated and invite students to write on the whiteboard (or screenshared document) a way they helped others, served, or volunteered in the last month or so. If you have your own examples or situations where your church family helped others, share them on the board also.

Serving others can take on so many forms! Sometimes just befriending people and inviting them over for a meal with our family can be just as much an act of service as pitching in with local charities or churches to help those in need in our community. These acts of caring and service don’t only need to happen in the month of December, service can happen all year around—and it should!

The following video is about volunteers in Texas who use their hands, tools, and time to help make housing more accessible for families in their community.

Share the following video [3:05; stop at 2:51]:

Texas Youth Volunteers Rebuild Galveston County Homes

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eD8R6NoDuCc>

These teens gathering together from all across Texas are volunteering their time to team up with the organization Everybody’s Place and help serve their communities.

➤ **What is something these teens are learning as they do this project? (Building skills, philanthropy, empathy, teamwork, etc.)**

➤ **What do these students learn about caring for others as they work on this project?** (Students take time to consider that not everyone in their community has access to affordable and safe housing. Students also consider how people in their community are affected by disasters, such as floods. They also get to learn how to take action in noticing and caring for other people's needs.)

➤ **Why would these teens or anyone else ever give up their time and skills to be involved in a project that is hard work?** (Answers will vary. Students might express that it is evident how much this project helped their community and so there would be satisfaction in serving others. Some might mention having been helped in the past by someone, and that paying it forward is the right thing to do, etc.)

There are many reasons to participate in service projects. Today we're going to talk about a reason that we might not always think of—Jesus' definition of greatness. Let's check it out.

(Continue on to Steps 2 and 3 in your teacher's guide; your Step 4 appears below.)

Lesson 9 / February 1, 2026

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STEP 4 **Lesson 9
Focus:**Jesus defined
“greatness” as
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Bible Basis:**

Mark 10:35-45

**Lesson 9
Memory Verse:**“For even the Son of Man did not
come to be served, but to serve,
and to give his life as a ransom for
many” —Mark 10:45**Materials:**

- Internet access
- Paper
- Pens/pencils
- List of service projects available through the church

If your class is meeting online, invite students to bring supplies to class. Before this step, contact your church office for a list of possible service projects your class might become a part of: Shoveling walks, sanitizing nursery toys, straightening pew book racks, etc. You might also be aware of community projects your group could do as a whole to volunteer, serve, and/or help others.

Jesus told His disciples that He came not to be served, but to serve (Mark 10:45).

➢ **Jesus came to serve. Who did He come to serve?** (Have students read today’s memory verse: “For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many”—Mark 10:45. Answers may include that Jesus came to serve all of us by dying on the cross, Jesus also served the sick, the poor, the crowds, His disciples, etc.)

➢ **When you think of today’s society, do you think people serve more or want to be served more?** (Invite conversation.)

➢ **Who could we serve?** (Answers will vary. Some ideas might be: neighbors, children in the church, the homeless population, struggling families, the sick, etc.)

If you were able to obtain a list of church service projects or came up with another service project idea, share about it now and have students contemplate the part they can play, personally, to serve others as a youth group. If a project idea is not in place, invite students to share ways they can reach out, as a group, to the needy people just mentioned that could be helped.

Discuss as a class when a good time would be to fulfill this service project, the specific needs that would need to be addressed, and ways students can address these needs.

After a concrete service idea is in place, distribute supplies (or invite students to have them ready at home) and encourage students to write down at least one way they will serve alongside others in this youth group.

Optional: If you feel comfortable, you can play this music video by Matthew West called “Do Something” and let it inspire your students to take action [4:05]:

Title: Matthew West – Do Something

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b_RjndG0IX8

Close in prayer asking for God to show us people who we need to serve and strength to “do something” to serve others as Jesus has served us.

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