

Connecting Church and Home

Quarter 2, Week 1 :: The Ultimate Servant

Treasure Story: Mark 1:1-11

Throughout the Old Testament, God's people had been promised a Messiah. The prophets Isaiah and Malachi promised a servant who would come preaching repentance to pave the way for the Messiah. In today's Treasure Story, we learn about a humble servant named John and the Ultimate Servant named Jesus.

Connect

"Though he was a king, he served. Though he was the greatest, he made himself the servant of all. He triumphed over sin not by taking up power but by serving sacrificially."

– Tim Keller, *Center Church*, pgs. 46-47

Ever since the Fall of Man, we have been promised a Messiah who would come and take away our sins. Mark indicates in his Gospel that John was the servant God would use to declare the arrival of the Messiah. John preached the repentance of sin and baptism, but Jesus is the only one able to forgive our sins and offer a baptism of the Holy Spirit. Think of Jesus as the Ultimate Servant as you participate in the following activities:

- **Serve the Lost:** John came as a servant of God preaching the good news that was to come. Jesus was the Ultimate Servant who would take our sins upon Himself and forgive us. As believers, we must serve those who have no relationship with Jesus. Discuss with your family different ways that you can serve others, such as fixing cupcakes for a neighbor or mowing the grass for an elderly friend. Look for opportunities to serve unbelievers in your community.
- **Studying the Scriptures:** As a family, look at the Old Testament passages that point to John as the servant who would come and declare the coming of the Christ. Discuss how God keeps His promises. God kept His promise to send a servant and by preparing the way for and sending the Ultimate Servant, Jesus Christ (Exodus 23:20; Isaiah 40:3, 64:1; Malachi 3:1-3).

My Mission As Parent

- God was faithful to His Word in sending His servant. Jesus came and died for our sins. Make sure you are teaching your children daily the faithfulness of God. It took many years before His promise came to pass, but God stayed true to His Word. Explain to your children that answers from God may not be immediate, but He desires that we come to Him to seek His plan.
- John proclaimed repentance as he declared the coming of the Messiah. After Jesus' ascension into heaven, His disciples spread the Gospel throughout the known world. We must teach our children that we will mess up and we are sinners by birth, but we must repent of our sins daily and rely on Christ and His work on the cross for our sins.

Prayer Points

- Let us worship God for His sufficient Word and His faithful fulfilling of all His promises.
- Ask God to forgive you of any unrepentant sin that you are carrying with you. Pray that the Holy Spirit would help you to recall your sins so that you can confess them and be healed.
- Praise Jesus that He is our Ultimate Servant who came as the second person of the Trinity and died for our sins.