# Gospel of Mark Weekly Talk Ideas | Sean McGever

## Mark Chapter 9

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| Scripture suggestion, basic overview, and background:  Mark 9 is a tricky chapter for a club talk. While Jesus and the gospel shine through every verse, it would take too much exposition and explanation for most of the stories to fit in a club talk. The best passage, I believe, is 9:33-37 “Who is the greatest?” This passage shows us God’s view of the “least of these” – which gives us a window into God’s heart and desires for us. Here is a brief outline with some thoughts:   1. Jesus in a house in Capernaum (v.33) 2. Busted!... they had been arguing about “who is the greatest?” (v.34)    1. Note: The expected answer (the greatest) might be: 1) A king, 2) A warrior, 3) A powerful person 3. Jesus sits down = Jesus is going to teach an important lesson (v.35a) 4. Lesson: To be 1st, be last, be the servant of all (v.35b) 5. Lesson illustration: Child (v.36-37)   Jesus treats a child as a king. One who has no rights, no power, no status, as someone who has ultimate status, power, and rights. At the same time, Jesus calls all people to respond to his ministry by serving others (especially the overlooked). |
| Possible main point(s):   * Jesus thinks the world of those who think the least of themselves. * Jesus says: you are valuable, you have purpose, you are my priority. |
| What this shows us about Jesus:   * Jesus isn’t impressed with what impresses the world. * Jesus cares deeply about every person, especially those who are overlooked and needy. * Jesus calls us to respond to him by serving others. |
| What this has to do with our life:   * Many of us want to be great, maybe even “the greatest” – this is a natural desire for many of us. * What would have been like to be that child? It would have been amazing. |
| Relevant technical details:   * *Sat down* (v.35) = Ancient teachers, rabbis, sat down when they began their teaching. This marked a formal lesson of importance. * *Twelve* (v.35) = The twelve disciples, or closest followers of Jesus. * *Servant / child* (v.35/36) = While Mark is written in Greek, the Aramaic (a language likely spoken by everyone in this story) word for “child” is also “servant.” This connects verses 35 and 36-37. * *Child* (v.36) = In the ancient world, children had no power, no status, and few rights. They were overlooked. Outside of their family they had little or no value. |
| Possible illustrations:   * *Single out a person*: Pick a person in the crowd (especially a person who doesn’t get a lot of attention), take their hand and tell them this: Jesus says: you are valuable, you have purpose, you are my priority. * *#1 sign*: Make a huge #1 sign (perhaps cut it out of huge piece of cardboard, wrap it in tin foil to make it look awesome). Give it to the person who you “single out” (see above). * *Flip a yearbook upside down*: Get an old yearbook, talk about the people at the “top”, use sticky notes with their names “Joe,” “Jay,” etc. Put them in order of popularity/coolness/importance. Put the sticky notes on the yearbook in that order. Then flip it upside down and say that Jesus says the first shall be last, servants (and the overlooked, those with little status, little power or resources) come first in his book. |

*For more details, see ylhelp.com*

Mark 9 (ESV)

**9**And he said to them, “Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the kingdom of God after it has come with power.”

**The Transfiguration**

**2**And after six days Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, **3**and his clothes became radiant, intensely white, as no one on earth could bleach them. **4**And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, and they were talking with Jesus. **5**And Peter said to Jesus, “Rabbi, it is good that we are here. Let us make three tents, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah.” **6**For he did not know what to say, for they were terrified. **7**And a cloud overshadowed them, and a voice came out of the cloud, “This is my beloved Son; listen to him.” **8**And suddenly, looking around, they no longer saw anyone with them but Jesus only.

**9**And as they were coming down the mountain, he charged them to tell no one what they had seen, until the Son of Man had risen from the dead. **10**So they kept the matter to themselves, questioning what this rising from the dead might mean. **11**And they asked him, “Why do the scribes say that first Elijah must come?” **12**And he said to them, “Elijah does come first to restore all things. And how is it written of the Son of Man that he should suffer many things and be treated with contempt? **13**But I tell you that Elijah has come, and they did to him whatever they pleased, as it is written of him.”

**Jesus Heals a Boy with an Unclean Spirit**

**14**And when they came to the disciples, they saw a great crowd around them, and scribes arguing with them. **15**And immediately all the crowd, when they saw him, were greatly amazed and ran up to him and greeted him. **16**And he asked them, “What are you arguing about with them?” **17**And someone from the crowd answered him, “Teacher, I brought my son to you, for he has a spirit that makes him mute. **18**And whenever it seizes him, it throws him down, and he foams and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid. So I asked your disciples to cast it out, and they were not able.” **19**And he answered them, “O faithless generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him to me.” **20**And they brought the boy to him. And when the spirit saw him, immediately it convulsed the boy, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth. **21**And Jesus asked his father, “How long has this been happening to him?” And he said, “From childhood. **22**And it has often cast him into fire and into water, to destroy him. But if you can do anything, have compassion on us and help us.” **23**And Jesus said to him, “ ‘If you can’! All things are possible for one who believes.” **24**Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, “I believe; help my unbelief!” **25**And when Jesus saw that a crowd came running together, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, “You mute and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him and never enter him again.” **26**And after crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was like a corpse, so that most of them said, “He is dead.” **27**But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. **28**And when he had entered the house, his disciples asked him privately, “Why could we not cast it out?” **29**And he said to them, “This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer.”

**Jesus Again Foretells Death, Resurrection**

**30**They went on from there and passed through Galilee. And he did not want anyone to know, **31**for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, “The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill him. And when he is killed, after three days he will rise.” **32**But they did not understand the saying, and were afraid to ask him.

**Who Is the Greatest?**

**33**And they came to Capernaum. And when he was in the house he asked them, “What were you discussing on the way?” **34**But they kept silent, for on the way they had argued with one another about who was the greatest. **35**And he sat down and called the twelve. And he said to them, “If anyone would be first, he must be last of all and servant of all.” **36**And he took a child and put him in the midst of them, and taking him in his arms, he said to them, **37**“Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, and whoever receives me, receives not me but him who sent me.”

**Anyone Not Against Us Is for Us**

**38**John said to him, “Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us.” **39**But Jesus said, “Do not stop him, for no one who does a mighty work in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. **40**For the one who is not against us is for us. **41**For truly, I say to you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you belong to Christ will by no means lose his reward.

**Temptations to Sin**

**42**“Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him if a great millstone were hung around his neck and he were thrown into the sea. **43**And if your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life crippled than with two hands to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. **45**And if your foot causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life lame than with two feet to be thrown into hell. **47**And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into hell, **48**‘where their worm does not die and the fire is not quenched.’ **49**For everyone will be salted with fire. **50**Salt is good, but if the salt has lost its saltiness, how will you make it salty again? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another.”