

# Luke *Following Jesus*

## 7. Who is the Greatest? *Luke 9.46-56 and 22.24-27*

**Aim:** To reflect on Jesus' counter-cultural teaching on leadership, status and servant-hearted sacrifice. To understand why it is important that we grasp and live these things out and to think practically about how we can actually do that.

### To start with:

**EITHER:** Which of your achievements are you most proud of and why?

**OR:** Who do you consider to be great and why?

### Engaging with the text:

#### *Read Luke 9.46-56.*

1. Why do you think the disciples might have been having this argument at this time? (verses 37-43 might help)
2. What other issues also appear to be causing conflict? What are they really all about? (i.e. why are the disciples getting agitated about them?)
3. What are Jesus' responses to each of these three questions of power? What strikes you about them?

4. What do Jesus' teachings and later actions that model sacrificial leadership tell us about the character of God? (and the character of his enemy who encourages people to do the opposite and grasp power and status for themselves?)

#### **Now read Luke 22.24-27.**

5. As he faces the cross, Jesus has to teach the disciples the same lesson again.
  - a. Why do you think it was so difficult for them to grasp? (Why do you think human beings so often want power or status?)
  - b. Why is it so vitally important that Jesus' followers then and now DO grasp it? What are the consequences when the church doesn't?
6.
  - a. Where would you say you currently have power, authority or influence?
  - b. How far do you like having it? Why/why not?
  - c. What do you think is a godly way to view and use the power or influence you do have?
7. Ultimately, what was Jesus' reward for his obedience? What are we promised will ours be?

### Pray

- For yourselves to be servant-hearted rather than look for status
- For those God has put in positions of leadership (in the world and our church community)