

# LESSON EIGHT | MARK 9

## SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

### WELCOME

*Me first!*  
2–3 mins.

### DRILL TIME

Moses  
3–5 mins.

### W.O.W!

*Rabbi*  
3–5 mins.

### HISTORICAL CONTEXT

*Timeline*  
2–3 mins.

### BIBLE INVESTIGATION

Mark 9  
20–30 mins.

### LESSON-AT-HOME

Mark 9:35b  
3–5 mins.

## OVERVIEW

The chapter opens with the dramatic transfiguration of Jesus. The inner circle of disciples are amazed and terrified as Jesus displays His glory, talks with Moses and Elijah, and is declared to be the Son of God by His Father. Peter suggests a camp-out for all of them, but Moses and Elijah disappear and all returns to normal. Jesus shows that this is a sign that He is the Messiah.

When they returned to the other disciples, Jesus discovered that His followers were not able to heal a boy with an evil spirit. The father begged Jesus to help his son and help him with his unbelief. Jesus casts out the evil spirit and tells the disciples that this spirit would only come out with faith-filled prayer. Then, He again teaches His disciples that He must suffer and die very soon.

The chapter continues with Jesus overhearing an argument amongst the disciples concerning who would be the greatest in God's kingdom. Jesus teaches them that the last shall be first, and the first will be last. He also instructs them to care for children, bringing them to Jesus, rather than causing them to sin. The chapter ends with Jesus' warning about the consequences of habitual sin and the need to cut out all temptation to sin.

## PREPARATION

Read through and meditate on Mark 9 this week. **Use flannelgraph figures or other pictures to illustrate the lesson.**

## TEACHING ENCOURAGEMENT

It's a great privilege and responsibility to teach the Word of God to children. Jesus tells us that we must welcome children and bring them to Him. He also says that we are to be ever-vigilant that we do not cause a child to sin and stray from Jesus. Jesus has great passion for children and calls His followers to have that same zeal. As teachers, we are called to draw their attention to their Savior and greatest Teacher in their lives. We are to show them Jesus both in what we say and do. What an awesome task that is set before us. Thankfully, we don't have to wonder what we will teach our children. They need what all adults need too—the Word of God. Teach them the gospel of grace as you show them Jesus!



## WELCOME

### **Greet the students. Welcome visitors.**

**Say:** *Have you ever said, “Me first, me first?” What do you like to be first at? Allow answers. We often not only want to go first, but we also want to be first. First place means being the winner, being the best, being at the top! We all love being first.*

*Do you know why we all want to be first? We want to be first because we are born sinfully selfish. We want to have the world centered on ourselves.*

*Jesus will talk to the disciples (and us) today about hearts that always want to be first. Let’s study and learn from Him!*



## DRILL TIME

*First, let’s move on to our DRILL TIME — our weekly opportunity to review what we have learned in the past.*

**Today’s questions:** *Who did God save by having his mother put him into a basket in the Nile River? How did God call Moses to be the deliverer of God’s people? How many plagues did God bring on Pharaoh and the Egyptians through Moses? Why did God not allow Moses to lead the Israelites into the Promised Land?*

### **Call on volunteers or select students to make attempts.**

#### **Answers:**

1. Moses.
2. He spoke to Moses from a burning bush.
3. Ten plagues.
4. Because he struck the rock when God told him to only speak to the rock. He dishonored the name of God.

**Say:** *Moses was one of God’s most amazing prophets. Even in his weakness and sinfulness, God used Moses to lead the people through the wilderness, to build the tabernacle, and to teach God’s Law to the people. Listen for his name in our reading today.*



## W.O.W!

Let's learn another important word today. Our W.O.W! (Word of the Week) this week is **RABBI**. Write the word on the board. Can anyone tell me who a RABBI is? **Allow answers.**

*In Bible times, a RABBI was a title of honor and respect given to a teacher of the law. The Jews gave this name to their distinguished teachers, not just any teacher.*

*The word RABBI comes from another word that means "great" or "head." So, RABBIS were considered to be great teachers that people would want to follow and learn from.*

*Today, the Jewish religion uses the name RABBI for their trained spiritual leaders. As Christians, we don't call our leaders and preachers, RABBIS, do we?*

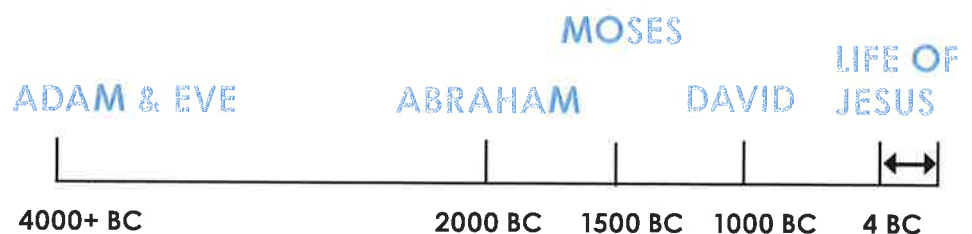
*Listen for the word RABBI in our reading today. Remember that it is another word for "great teacher." Who do you think is the greatest teacher that ever lived? Some people may refer to Him as their RABBI! Listen closely as we continue our investigation of the Gospel of Mark.*



## HISTORICAL CONTEXT

**If necessary, draw this timeline on the board, and show the students when these events took place.**

### This Week's Timeline





**Introduction:** *Jesus has just told His disciples that He will suffer many things, be crucified, and then rise again from the dead after three days. How did Peter react to this news? [He rebuked Jesus.] Jesus then rebuked Peter for being on Satan's side. Jesus has to go to the cross and die, doesn't He? If He doesn't, He can't save His people from their sins!*

*Let's continue our reading today. **Read Mark 9:1-2.***

<sup>1</sup> 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." <sup>2</sup> 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,

**Discussion:** *Who knows what the word TRANSFIGURE means? **Allow answers.** To TRANSFIGURE means to change what you look like. Jesus was changed right before the eyes of His closest disciples. How did He change?*

*Listen. **Read verse 3.***

<sup>3</sup> and his clothes became radiant, intensely white, as no one on earth could bleach them.

**Discussion:** *Wow! Jesus became bright white! Peter, James and John saw Jesus for who He really is: The holy Son of God. Jesus is totally pure and unstained from sin.*

*Listen to what else happens. **Read verses 4-6.***

<sup>4</sup> And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, and they were talking with Jesus. <sup>5</sup> 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." <sup>6</sup> For he did not know what to say, for they were terrified.

**Discussion:** *Who appeared with Jesus? [Moses and Elijah.] You already know all about Moses, but maybe not so much about Elijah. Elijah was one of God's mighty prophets who was taken to heaven in a chariot of fire. Wouldn't you like to know what they were talking to Jesus about? Did you also hear our Word of the Week? Who did Peter call RABBI? [Jesus.] Jesus was certainly a great teacher, worthy of the name RABBI. How did the disciples respond to the transfiguration of Jesus? [They were frightened.]*





*Listen to what happens next. **Read verses 7-10.***

<sup>7</sup> And a cloud overshadowed them, and a voice came out of the cloud, “This is my beloved Son; listen to him.” <sup>8</sup> And suddenly, looking around, they no longer saw anyone with them but Jesus only. <sup>9</sup> 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. <sup>10</sup> So they kept the matter to themselves, questioning what this rising from the dead might mean.

**Discussion:** *Whose voice came from the cloud that enveloped Jesus, Moses and Elijah? [God the Father’s voice.] What did God the Father say about Jesus? [This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to Him!] Do you think the disciples truly believe that Jesus is the Son of God? I’m not sure they understand that Jesus has to die and rise again from the dead.*

*Let’s read on. **Read verses 11-13.***

<sup>11</sup> And they asked him, “Why do the scribes say that first Elijah must come?” <sup>12</sup> 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? <sup>13</sup> But I tell you that Elijah has come, and they did to him whatever they pleased, as it is written of him.”

**Discussion:** *The other RABBIS taught that Elijah must come before the Messiah comes. Unfortunately, they didn’t see that Jesus is the Messiah! They ignored certain parts of God’s Word, turning their backs on Jesus, the suffering Savior.*

*Let’s continue. **Read verses 14-18.***

<sup>14</sup> And when they came to the disciples, they saw a great crowd around them, and scribes arguing with them. <sup>15</sup> And immediately all the crowd, when they saw him, were greatly amazed and ran up to him and greeted him. <sup>16</sup> And he asked them, “What are you arguing about with them?” <sup>17</sup> And someone from the crowd answered him, “Teacher, I brought my son to you, for he has a spirit that makes him mute. <sup>18</sup> 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.”

**Discussion:** *Did you hear what this man called Jesus? He called Him “teacher” which is the same word as RABBI. What did this man*



*want Jesus, the RABBI, to do? [He wanted his son to be freed from demon possession.] Jesus' disciples could not cast out the evil spirit. Why not?*

*Let's see. **Read verses 19-23.***

<sup>19</sup> 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."

<sup>20</sup> 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. <sup>21</sup> And Jesus asked his father, "How long has this been happening to him?" And he said, "From childhood. <sup>22</sup> 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." <sup>23</sup> And Jesus said to him, "If you can! All things are possible for one who believes."

**Discussion:** *Jesus seems to be saying that the disciples were not able to cast out the spirit because of their unbelief. This boy was in a horrible state, wasn't he? Jesus tells the father that everything is possible for those who believe in Him.*

**Application:** *What looks impossible for us is only possible if God chooses to act on our behalf. We are like the disciples—with faith that is inconsistent at best. Our unbelief must be changed to faith in Jesus!*

*Listen to what happens next. **Read verses 24-29.***

<sup>24</sup> Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, "I believe; help my unbelief!" <sup>25</sup> 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." <sup>26</sup> 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." <sup>27</sup> But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. <sup>28</sup> And when he had entered the house, his disciples asked him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?" <sup>29</sup> And he said to them, "This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer."

**Discussion:** *Could Jesus cast this evil spirit out of the boy? [Yes.] Why couldn't the disciples do what Jesus did? [This evil spirit only comes out by faith-filled prayer.]*



**Application:** *Did you hear what the boy's father said? He said he believed in Jesus, but he needed help to believe more. You and I need God to help our unbelief too!*

*Let's continue on. Read verses 30-32.*

<sup>30</sup> They went on from there and passed through Galilee. And he did not want anyone to know, <sup>31</sup> 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." <sup>32</sup> But they did not understand the saying, and were afraid to ask him.

**Discussion:** *Jesus, the great RABBI, is now teaching His disciples. What was He teaching about? [That He was going to be betrayed, killed, and then rise again.] Did they understand what Jesus was teaching yet? [No!]*

*Let's read more. Read verses 33-35.*

<sup>33</sup> And they came to Capernaum. And when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you discussing on the way?" <sup>34</sup> But they kept silent, for on the way they had argued with one another about who was the greatest. <sup>35</sup> 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."

**Discussion:** *What were the disciples arguing about now? [Who was the greatest disciple.] It sounds like they were all saying, "Me first, me first!" They sound like children who are fighting to be the best. What did Jesus teach them? [That the way to be first is to be the very last.]*

**Application:** *Have you ever thought that the way to be first is to be last? If you serve others first, Jesus says that you will actually be the greatest person in His kingdom. Jesus wants you to stop being selfish, and love others more than you love yourself. The only way we will do that is if Jesus changes our hearts.*

*Listen to what else Jesus says. Read verses 36-37.*

<sup>36</sup> And he took a child and put him in the midst of them, and taking him in his arms, he said to them, <sup>37</sup> "Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, and whoever receives me, receives not me but him who sent me."



**Discussion:** *Jesus now uses a child as an object lesson. What do you think Jesus meant when He told the disciples to “receive” children in His name? Allow answers. Jesus called His disciples to lead children to Himself. Isn’t that amazing? Children are so important to Jesus that He tells adults to bring them into the Kingdom of God.*

*Let’s read more. Read verses 38-41.*

<sup>38</sup> 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.” <sup>39</sup> 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. <sup>40</sup> For the one who is not against us is for us. <sup>41</sup> 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.

**Discussion:** *What did John call Jesus? [Teacher.] He called Him RABBI too! John and the disciples saw a man driving out demons in Jesus’ name. But this man wasn’t a disciple of Jesus. What did they do about it? [They told him to stop.] Yet Jesus says that anyone who is not against Him is actually on His side. Anyone who works in Jesus’ name is to be encouraged!*

*Listen to more of Jesus’ words. Read verse 42.*

<sup>42</sup> “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.

**Application:** *Jesus says that it is better to die a horrible death than to lead children into sin. Adults must be very careful to not tempt our youngest ones to stray from Jesus. Follow Jesus instead of those who would lead you away from Jesus!*

*Listen to the last of Jesus’ words. Read verses 43-50.*

<sup>43</sup> 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. <sup>45</sup> 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. <sup>47</sup> 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, <sup>48</sup> ‘where their worm does not die and the fire is not quenched.’ <sup>49</sup> For everyone will be salted with fire.





<sup>50</sup> 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.”

**Discussion:** *Do you understand what Jesus is saying? He is not telling us to cut off our hands or feet, or even to pluck out our eyes. He is calling us to cut out things that tempt us to sin. We need to be serious about staying away from temptation to sin, which can only happen if Jesus cleanses our hearts.*

**Conclusion:** *Jesus is the greatest RABBI who ever lived. Following Jesus means putting our faith in Him as our Savior AND obeying all that He has taught us in God’s Word. We need the Holy Spirit so our RABBI’S teachings will stay in our hearts and convict us of our sins. As you believe in Jesus, ask Him to help you with your unbelief! We’ll pick up here next time...*



## LESSON-AT-HOME

**Distribute the “Lesson-At-Home” bookmarks. Read the Scripture Memory verse (Mark 9:35b) together.**

**Mark 9:35b (ESV)**

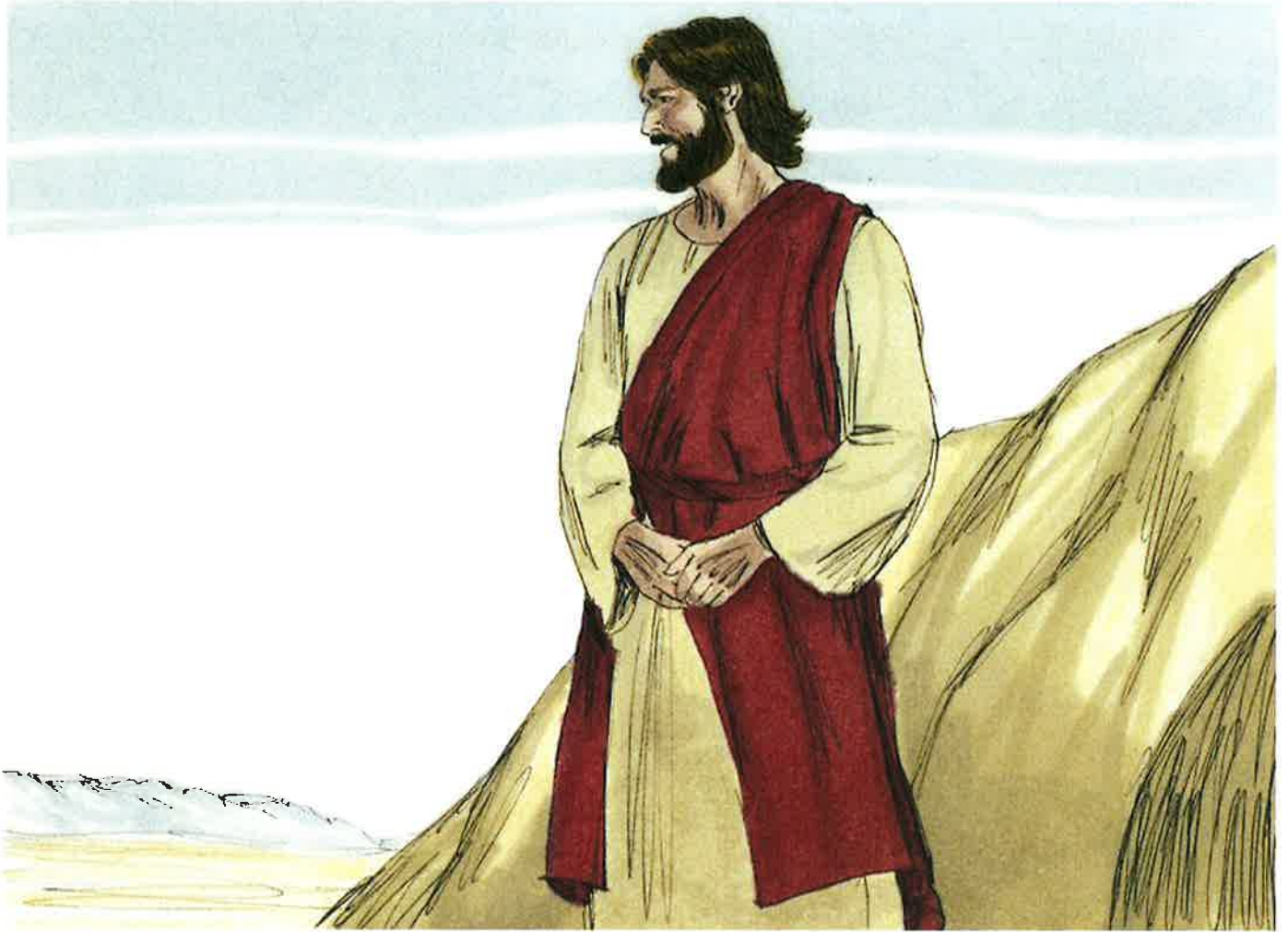
<sup>35</sup> “If anyone would be first, he must be last of all and servant of all.”

**Say:** *This brings us back to what Jesus said to those childish disciples (and to us). Our hearts want to say “me first” all the time. What does it take to be first in God’s kingdom? [We must be servant of all.] Memorize this verse and practice being a servant to all those around you.*

**Review the verse a couple of times.**

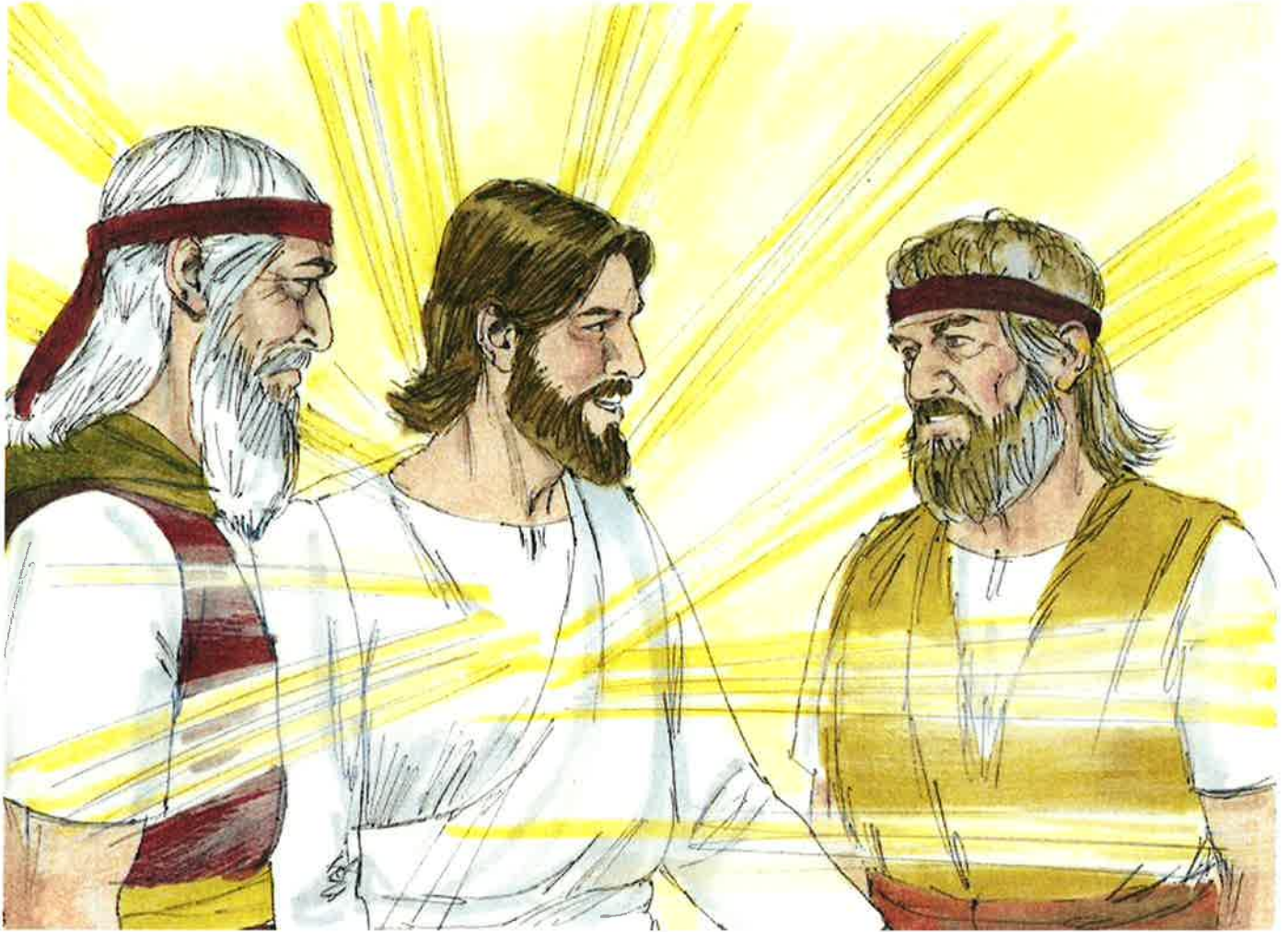
**Direct the students’ attentions to the bottom half of the bookmark. It includes reminder points of today’s lesson that can be discussed with their parents and reviewed during the week.**

**Close in prayer and dismiss the students.**

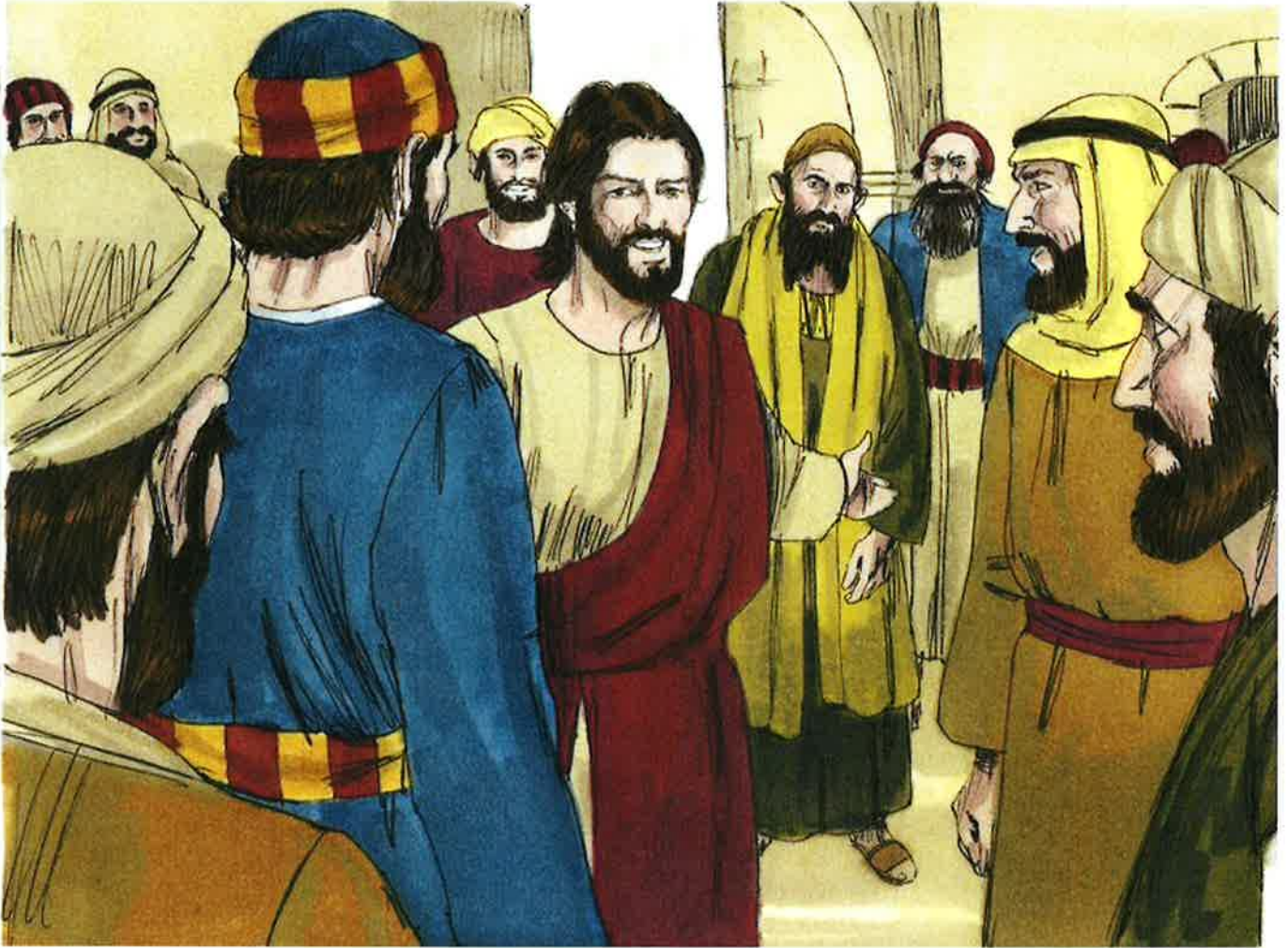






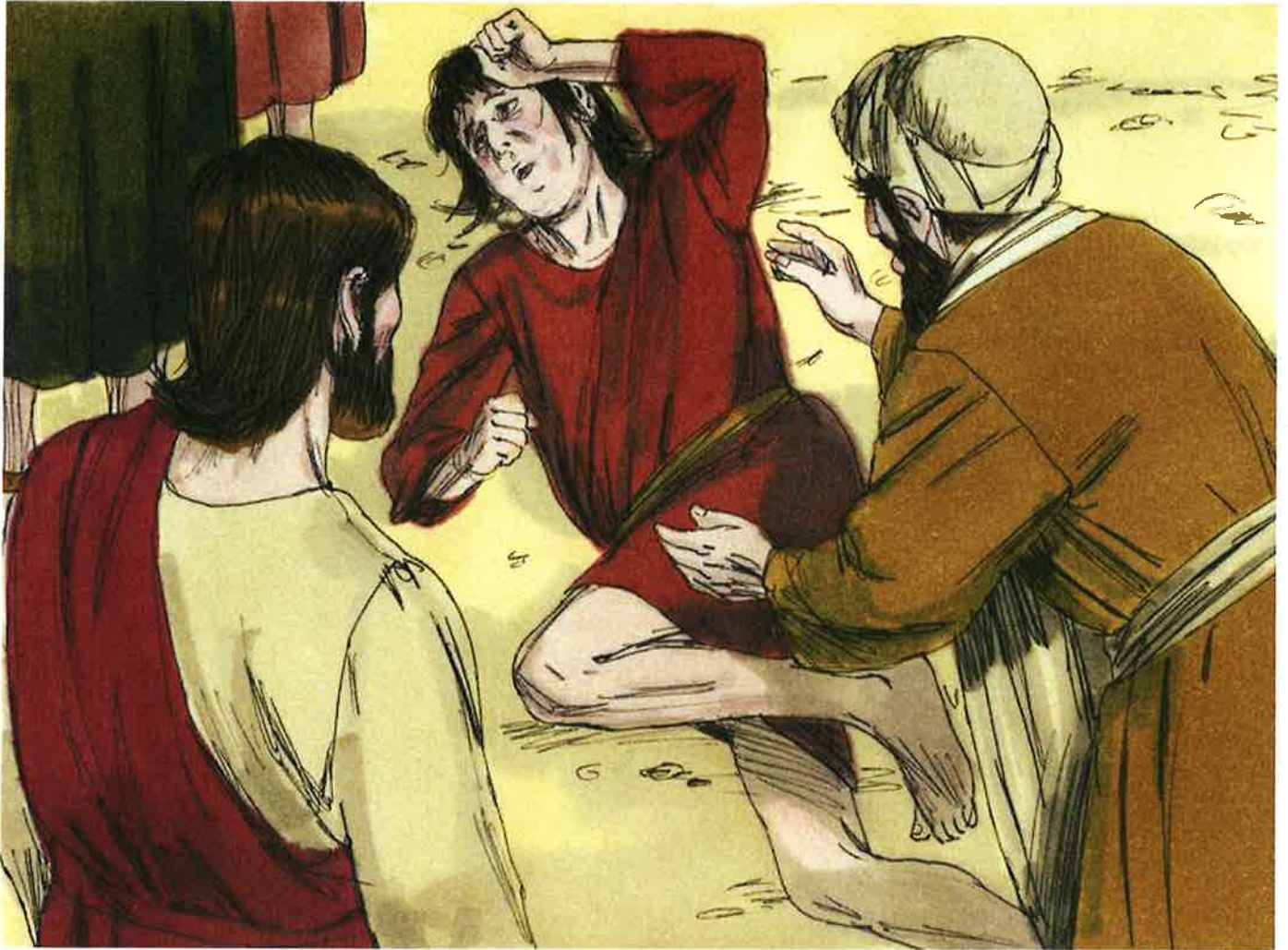


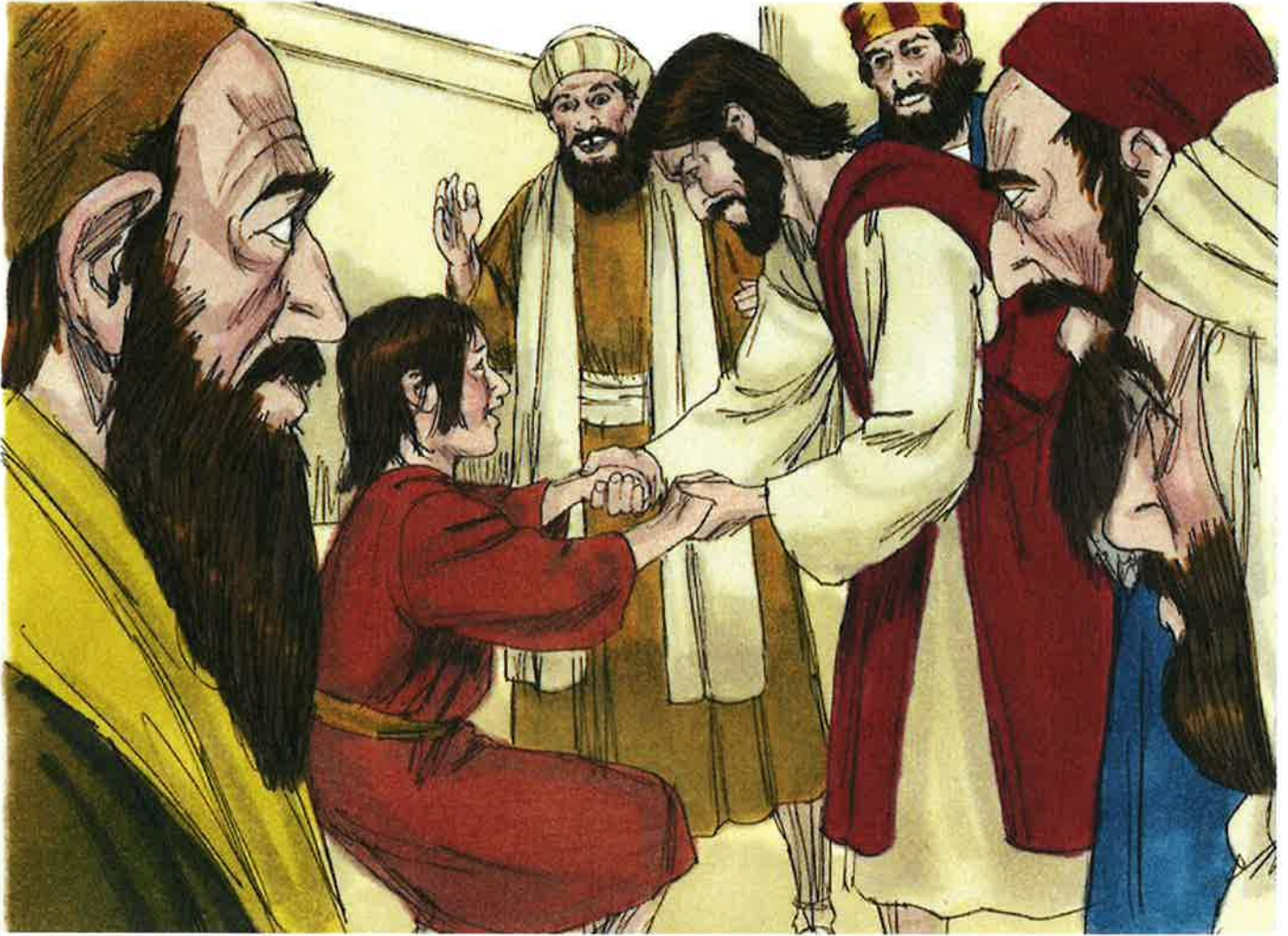




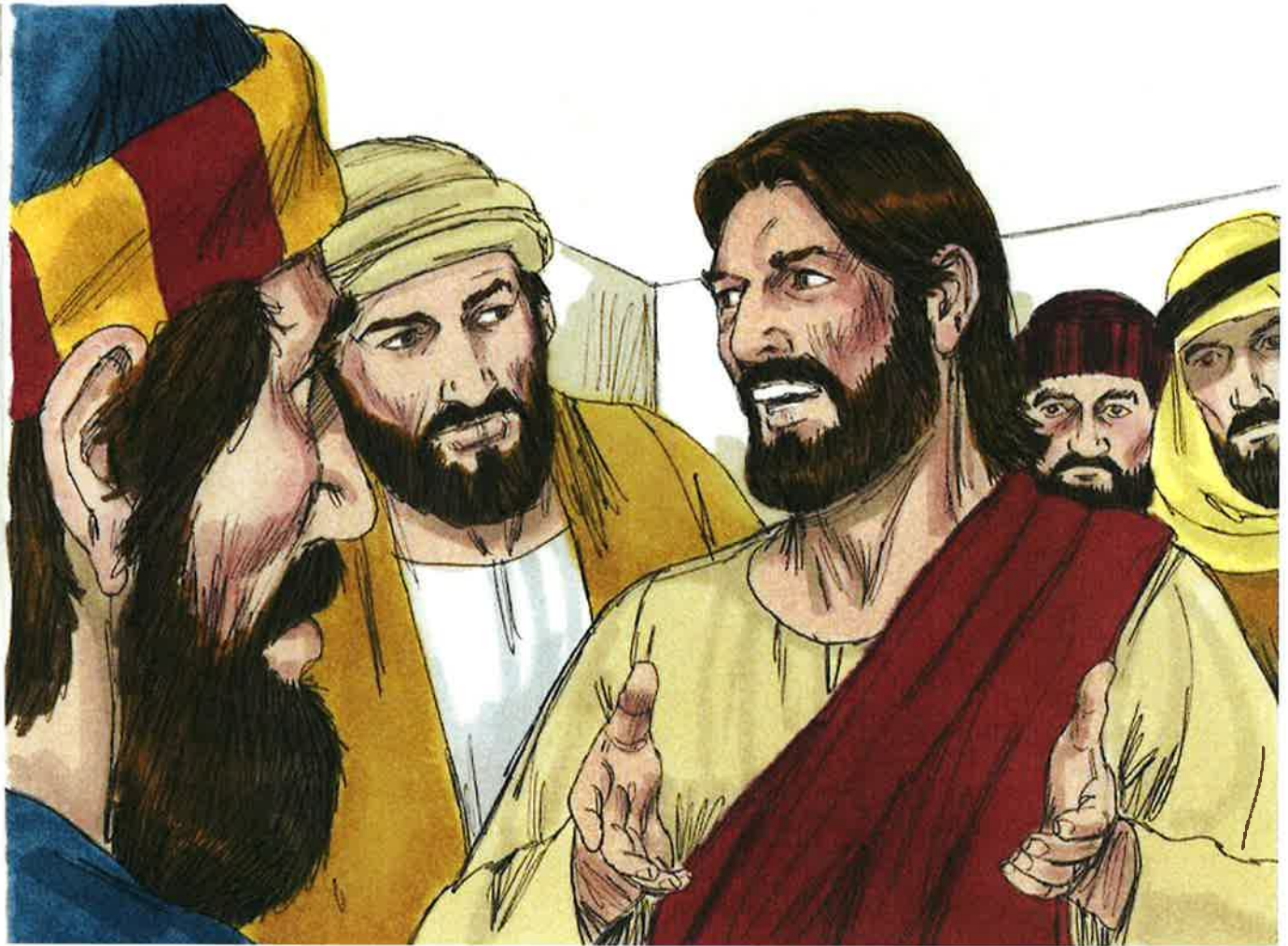


















# Lesson-At-Home

## Bookmark

### Scripture Memory

Mark 9:35b

*“If anyone would  
be first, he must be  
last of all and  
servant of all.”*

### Lesson Review

Mark 9

*The transfiguration of  
Jesus.*

*Disciples could not heal a  
boy.*

*Who is greatest in the  
kingdom?*

*Jesus welcomes little  
children.*

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Investigating God's Word.  
Summer Quarter ~ Lesson Eight

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