

# Parish Meeting Prayers

For use in September, 2021

## Introduction

Leader Service to others is the role of a disciple of Jesus. We are to avoid seeking self-importance and oppressive authority over others. Ours is an authority of service.

## Opening Prayer

All God of Wisdom, keep before us Jesus' teaching on authority: A disciple of Jesus serves others. Help us to check our motives for leadership and guide us to be "the last of all and servant of all."  
(Mk. 9:35) We pray with confidence in Jesus' name. Amen.

## Word of God Mark 9:30-37

Reader A reading from the Gospel of Mark (Pause for silent reflection)

*Optional* Discuss these questions in two's or three's. *The reading is on the reverse side.*  
1. Describe leaders you have known who modeled servant leadership.  
2. How do you monitor your personal style of service to others, including your family, friends and community?

**Response** Taken from Mark 9:30-37

Side 1 "The disciples had been discussing among themselves on the way who was the greatest."

Side 2 May our discussions not betray our desire to be the greatest.

Side 1 "If anyone wishes to be first, he shall be the last of all and the servant of all."

Side 2 Thank you, Jesus, for a clear and concise statement for us to live each day as God's servants.

Side 1 "Whoever receives one child such as this in my name, receives me; and whoever receives me, receives not me but the One who sent me."

Side 2 As God's children from everywhere in our world, may we receive one and all in the name of Jesus.

All We pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Petitions** Individuals add intentions to remember here.

## Closing Prayer

All Thank you, God, for giving us Jesus whose life and death teach us how to develop qualities of servant leadership. Help us to reflect often on how we use authority within our families, parishes and communities. We ask this in Jesus name. Amen

## **A Reading from the Gospel of Mark**

Jesus and his disciples left from that district  
and began a journey through Galilee,  
but he did not wish anyone to know about it.

He was teaching his disciples and telling them,  
“The Son of Man is to be handed over to men  
and they will kill him,  
and three days after his death the Son of Man will rise.”  
But they did not understand the saying,  
and they were afraid to question him.

They came to Capernaum and once inside the house,  
he began to ask them,  
“What were you arguing about on the way?”  
But they remained silent.  
They had been discussing among themselves on the way  
who was the greatest.

Then he sat down, called the Twelve, and said to them,  
“If anyone wishes to be first,  
he shall be the last of all and the servant of all.”

Taking a child, he placed it in their midst,  
and putting his arms around it, he said to them,  
“Whoever receives one child such as this in my name,  
receives me;  
and whoever receives me,  
receives not me but the One who sent me.”