

# different

## Week 2: Don't Puff Up, Build Up

Pray: In your own words, ask God to show you how to build others up.

Competition. Often we feel we are in a race to get ahead, achieve a goal, leave a mark. When we approach each day this way it trains us to evaluate others, to determine who's ahead of us and who's behind, who's above and who's below. When we think of life as a competition it can turn people into opponents and even enemies. Is there a different way to think about your life?

Read: Matthew 20:17-28

Watch: "And the Winner Is..."

Reflect

1. Share with your group a position you really wanted – on a team, in a play, at a job – and didn't get. How did you feel about yourself? About the person who got it? How do you feel looking back on it now?
2. What motivates James and John's mom to make this request of Jesus? Do you think the boys were in on it? Why does it create conflict with the other ten disciples?
3. When it comes to deciding who will sit next to Him, Jesus submits to His Father's will. Do you ever find it difficult to submit to God's will about something you want? How do you handle this?
4. What is the difference between the definition of greatness in Jesus' Kingdom and in the Gentile kingdom? What might happen if you followed Jesus' definition of greatness in the kingdom of our world today?
5. Paul writes, "Do not think of yourself more highly than ought. Honor one another above yourselves. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited." (Romans 12:3,10, 16). Is pride ever a problem for you? In what way? How do these verses direct you to think differently about yourself and others?

Steps:

How would you be different if you thought of your life as a collaboration and a community instead of a competition?

Share a current situation where you feel God wants you to build someone up.

Share with your group one step of faith that will help you think different this week. Ask one person to hold you accountable to this step. Examples:

- A. Participate in a mission which brings you to people with whom you don't normally associate – for example: Code Blue, Dinner Ministry, Prison Ministry, Recovery Café or worship service.
- B. Decide as a group to participate in a mission that builds up a person or community.
- C. Affirm someone at work, school or your neighborhood who is an outsider or who you find difficult.
- D. Create an action item of your own.

Pray: As you pray, picture Jesus serving you and inviting you to serve others alongside Him.