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Written by Nathanael Vissia

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An rfour.org Children's Time Message

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*Written for Sunday, September 23, 2018*

*Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost*

*Lectionary Year B*

**Scripture:** [Mark 9:30-37](#) [ **Summary:** *God Helps Us To Be Great* ]

**Supplies Needed:** No supplies needed.

**ASK** (a.k.a. [The On-Ramp](#))

- Good morning!
- Can you tell me how you got here, to the church building, today? (by car; walked)
- For those of you who got here by car - did you drive the car? (No)
- Why not? (can't drive)
- If you can't drive, how do you get to work in the mornings? (We don't work)
- You don't work!? [*Pause. Pretend to think*]
- Well, if you can't drive and you don't work, then how do you get food to eat? (family gives it to me)
- You're telling me that other people give you food? (yes)
- Well, that's really nice of them, isn't it? (yes)

**TELL** (a.k.a. [The Freeway](#))

- So what all of my silly questions are meant to do is to help us remember that we need each other's help.
- I bring that up because in today's scripture story, we hear that Jesus' disciples seem to have forgotten that they need each other's help.
- We know they have forgotten they need each other's help because they were having an argument about who was the greatest and best.

- But, being the greatest and best is about how well you can do things on your own by yourself – because if others are helping you do something, then you obviously aren't the best.
- Which is why Jesus has to remind his disciples, saying, “Being the best and the greatest does not welcome me or God into your life.”

## **SHARE the Good News** (a.k.a. *The Destination*)

- In other words, Jesus is telling his disciples to stop trying to be “know-it-alls” and to instead be more like *you* [*point at the kids*]: To be people who know that they could use some help from time to time.
- This may seem like a simple thing to you – to be able to accept help, but this is a really important thing to remember and to practice.
- When we know we need help, then we are much better at accepting help.
- This is so important, I’m going to say it again:
- When we know we need God’s help, then we are much better at accepting God’s help.
- And when we *do* accept God’s help, then our best will become even better.
- That’s the good news for today. Let’s pray.

## **CLOSING Prayer**

**Dear God,**

**Dear God,**

**Thank you for Jesus...**

**Thank you for Jesus...**

**...who teaches and shows us...**

**...who teaches and shows us...**

**...how to do our best...**

**...how to do our best...**

**...by asking for and accepting...**

**...by asking for and accepting...**

**...your help.**

**...your help.**

**Thank you and amen**