



Sermon Discussion Guide

The Way of Followership - Tim Knipp

January 11, 2026

Hook - Getting to know one another

- *How is everyone doing this week?*
- *In the sermon, Tim told a story from his childhood of a time when an older Young Life volunteer spent time with him, just a lowly youngster ... paying attention to him, teaching him things, and helping him grow. That was really impactful on him. Can you think of a time when someone who could be thought of as "greater" than you (more experienced/older, more power/authority) noticed you, paid attention to you, helped you out?*

Book - Scripture

- *Read the scripture and discuss to understand **what the text is saying**:*
- *The sermon focused on a passage in the middle of Mark, where Jesus is trying to make clear to his disciples what kind of King he is, and therefore what kind of King-followers they should be. **Read Mark 9:30-37.***
- *What do you notice about Jesus as a teacher in this passage?*
- *Jesus uses a child to demonstrate what his kingdom should be like. Tim talked in the sermon about how children were not valued in the New Testament world. Jesus demonstrated care for children, for "the little ones," in this passage. Can you think of other examples in Jesus's life and ministry when he demonstrated care for those who were not valued, or even were hated, in that day? (i.e. the Samaritan woman at the well, the leper, the sinful woman, Zaccheus, the Roman centurion).*
- *Jesus said "Whoever welcomes one of these children welcomes me" (and "the one who sent me.") Remembering that children were considered lowly, or "beneath you" in that day, what do you think it meant to "welcome" one of those children?*

Look - Connections to our world today



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- This section focuses on implications about **what this text means** about what's wrong in the world, about trusting God, about who God is, etc.

Professor Darrell Johnson calls God's Kingdom "an upside down" kingdom. It is upside down when compared to the common values of the world.

*This kingdom is of and for the poor
In it, the first shall be last
The meek shall inherit the earth
Those who give their lives will gain life.*

- Jesus says in verse 35, "Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last, and the servant of all." How does this view differ from the way we tend to view the world in our time?
- Today, children are actually highly valued. But not all people are. Who today might replace the children as "the little ones" in Jesus's lesson?
- What do you think it means to "welcome" one of "the little ones" today?

Took - Personal Application

- This application focuses on **how God is calling us to respond**. This could be personally, as a family, small group, or church. It could be something to believe, to meditate on, to say or do this week.
- Who is really hard for you to "welcome?" Why? (This can be a very vulnerable question. Don't push it... maybe share first.)
- Where in your life do you find yourself, in Tim's words, "climbing and conquering?"
- How in your life do you try to welcome the "least of these," "the little ones," ... or how do you, in Tim's words, "kneel and serve?"
- How do you think we, as members of God's upside-down Kingdom, can improve at "kneeling and serving?"

Time of Prayer