Paradox
Mark 9:30-50
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THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS CHRIST - John Mark

Life Groups Sermon Based Study
LOVE OTHERS

EASY CROWD BREAKER QUESTION...
1. This statement is false.   True   False

JESUS' THEME (again) - 9:30-32
1. Why is what Jesus' teaching in these verses confusing to the disciples?

2. What might be Jesus' reason for privately sharing this teaching with His disciples?

THE PARADOX OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD - 9:33-35
1. What might have been the disciples' motivation in discussing *"who was the greatest"*?

2. In what way is Jesus' statement about "being first" paradoxical to what it means to be "first" in the kingdoms of our world?

3. How might Jesus' statement be contrary to your understanding of "being first"?

THE PARADOX OF PERSPECTIVE - 9:36,37
1. What is the point of Jesus' illustration using the child?

2. How might Jesus' point challenge your own attitude towards others?

THE PARADOX OF POSITION - 9:38-41
1. What might have been the motivation of the disciples when they tried to stop the man from casting out demons?

2. As Jesus responds, what is His point?

3. How does Jesus' point "level the playing field" for all of us. (HINT: Ephesians 2:8-10)

4. Most church conflict would be avoided if we would adhere to what Jesus is teaching here.   True   False

THE PARADOX OF PRESERVATION - 9:42-48
1. What is the point of Jesus' illustrations?

2. Is He serious????   Yes   No   Why?

3. Why might we personally struggle with the implications and implementation of what Jesus is teaching?

THE IMPORTANCE OF SALT - 9:49,50
1. How was salt used? (HINT: Leviticus 2:13; Numbers 18:19)

2. Using the illustration of salt, what is Jesus trying to teach His disciples?

OUT OF THE BOX BONUS QUESTIONS:
1. Consider the places where we do life (your family, Creekside, the greater Merced metroplex; California; The United States). What do you think would happen if we actually lived as Jesus is teaching here? What to you think would be the effect on the church? On our community? On you personally?

2. This week, what might it look like for you to live according to what Jesus is teaching here? (Consider also Philippians 2:1-11)