

CONFLICT(ED)

pursuing peace in
a cancel culture

DISCUSSION GUIDE

DISCUSSION GOAL



Discuss what greatness looks like in the Kingdom of God. Discuss what healthy spiritual family looks like (dependence and loving care). Discuss the example Jesus sets forth in being great through humility.

ICE BREAKER



When was a time that you thought you were really good at something, but learned that you weren't as good as you thought? Or, when was a time when you thought you were not capable of accomplishing something, but you were able to anyway?

TEXT



Have a member of your group read the passage aloud.

Matthew 18:1-6 ESV

At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" ² And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them ³ and said, "Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. ⁴ Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

⁵ "Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, ⁶ but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea.

MESSAGE OUTLINE



This is what our pastoral team observed about the passage.

Big Idea: In Jesus' kingdom greatness is defined by humility.

Key Question: What does greatness look like in the community of Christ?

1. Pursue dependence instead of power. (vv. 1-4)
2. Practice loving care instead of introducing temptation. (vv. 5-6)

DISCUSSION



- In Verse 2, Jesus calls a child over to show the disciples what it means to be the greatest. Why do you think Jesus uses the example of a child? What does Jesus say those who humble themselves like a child will be?
- Brainstorm what it means to be “become like children” (verse 3), as well as what it doesn’t mean. In what areas of your life do you need to become like a child?
- **READ** Philippians 2:3-11. How do we see Jesus exercising humility? What parallels are there between this passage and Matthew 18:1-6 where Jesus commands us to be like children?
- In verse 5, Jesus commends receiving those who are like children. Who do you think Jesus is speaking of here? How can we lift the “little ones” up? How can you utilize the gift of community to strengthen one another?
- When we pursue definitions of greatness that are not consistent with Jesus’ definition of greatness, we hurt each other. Do you agree with this? What are some of the ways our culture defines greatness? How does that differ from how Jesus defines it?

LIFE APPLICATION



Today we discussed how in Jesus’ Kingdom, greatness is defined by humility. Reflect upon the humility of Christ. Pray for that same humility as a community. As a group, come up with some ways we can respond to the truth of this week’s message.

Jot your ideas below and send a picture to your group to remind everyone of your action steps this week.

PRAYER REQUESTS


