

Lesson #1-L1***The Greatest in the Kingdom***

Matthew 18:1-9

**Key Verse:**

“Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”

Matthew 18:2

The Point:

In God's kingdom, the greatest serve others.

Unit Theme (March 6—April 7)

The Ways of the Kingdom

Great in the Kingdom

Discovering what makes someone great in God's kingdom.

You will need:

- † Mural paper
- † Markers
- † Sticky notes
- † Pens or pencils

Preparation:

1. Draw a life size outline of a person on two pieces of mural paper. Mark one “World” and the other “Kingdom (of Heaven)” Hang where all can see them.

Instructions:

1. Pass out two sticky notes to each participant.
2. **What makes someone great by the world's standards? Write that characteristic on one sticky note.**

3. **What makes someone great in God's kingdom. Write that on your second sticky note.**
4. Invite volunteers to come place their sticky notes on each outline.
5. **What are some of the things that are the same between these two figures?** Allow time for responses.
6. **What is different?** Allow time for responses.
7. **Jesus' disciples asked who is the greatest in God's kingdom. As we journey through Lent, we'll be learning about God's kingdom. Sometimes the ways of God's kingdom are different than what we might be used to.**
8. **Jesus surprises his disciples by telling them that being humble and like a child makes someone greatest in the kingdom. He also warns that if you're not looking out for others, you've missed what the kingdom is all about.**