

“THE GREATEST IN THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN”

Matthew 18:1-14

Key verse 4

“Therefore, whoever takes the lowly position of this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.”

1. What question did Jesus’ disciples ask and why (1)? What more basic question did Jesus first address (2-3)? What does it mean to change and become like little children?
2. Read verse 4. Who then is greatest in the kingdom of heaven? What does Jesus mean by “the lowly position of this child”? How does this challenge the conventional view of greatness? How can we practically take this position (5)?
3. Who are little ones, and what serious warning did Jesus give to those who cause them to stumble (6)? To whom does Jesus pronounce woes (7)? In the context of community, how and why must we deal with what causes us to sin (8-9)?
4. What does it mean to “despise one of these little ones” (10)? Why should we not despise little ones? How should we regard little ones who’ve wandered off (12-13)? Why (14)?
5. How can you become the greatest in the context of your own community?