



Jesus People Part 5—Who’s the Greatest?
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USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

We have provided all the Scriptures references in the sermon and some discussion questions for you to use to discuss the weekend message.

This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session together. Give priority to the needs and pace of your group members.

While the questions are important, remember your group’s goal is to create an atmosphere that will foster true friendships. Use the discussion questions as you see fit but emphasize the relationships.

All of us are Jesus People because we’ve encountered Jesus, and He’s changed our lives forever. He’s completely flipped our lives and our perspective of establishing the Kingdom of Heaven on earth.

[Matthew 18:1-9, ESV]

“At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, “Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?” And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them and said, “Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. “Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, 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.

Jesus’ Kingdom is always counter-cultural to what culture says.

There's a difference between being childlike and childish.

[Ephesians 4:14, ESV]

So that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes.

What It Means to Be Childlike—

1. To be childlike is to be dependent not independent

[Psalms 68:6, NIV]

God sets the lonely in families.

Recognize your dependency on the Father. Humility is to have a proper view of yourself in light of who God is.

2. Being childlike is about who we are becoming.

Children's main job is exploring, discovering, and becoming who you are meant to be.

Becoming is a constant state of learning and unlearning.

In our relationship with Jesus, we were never meant to live in a place of just efficiency and getting things done; He wants us to live in an ongoing state of exploration.

We were never created to have an attitude of "been there, done that" when it comes to God.

God wants to restore your sense of childlike faith, innocence, and wonder.

[John 21:9-19, ESV]

When they got out on land, they saw a charcoal fire in place, with fish laid out on it, and bread. Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish that you have just caught." So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore,

full of large fish, 153 of them. And although there were so many, the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, “Come and have breakfast.” Now none of the disciples dared ask him, “Who are you?” They knew it was the Lord. Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and so with the fish. This was now the third time that Jesus was revealed to the disciples after he was raised from the dead. When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” He said to him, “Feed my lambs.” He said to him a second time, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” He said to him, “Tend my sheep.” He said to him the third time, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” Peter was grieved because he said to him the third time, “Do you love me?” and he said to him, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep. Truly, truly, I say to you, when you were young, you used to dress yourself and walk wherever you wanted, but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will dress you and carry you where you do not want to go.” (This he said to show by what kind of death he was to glorify God.) And after saying this he said to him, “Follow me.”

If you’ve lost childlike faith, God wants to restore it; if you’ve never found it, God wants to reveal it.

FOR MONDAY—

1. Explore the New Testament and find passages where the concepts of the Kingdom are upside-down compared to cultural expectation.
2. Intentionally choose dependence and humility in a situation that arises this week, and trust that God will work on your behalf.

TALK IT THROUGH

1. What are your ideas of greatness? What does greatness mean to God? When have you used culture’s idea of greatness instead of God’s truth of the matter? How has that affected your mindset?
2. What do you think of when you hear the “Kingdom of God?” How did Jesus establish His Kingdom on earth? Why was Jesus so intentional about establishing an “upside-down Kingdom?” Why do so many

people try to superimpose the cultural ideas of greatness on the Kingdom of God?

3. In what ways was the child called up in Matthew 18 an example of faith? As followers of Jesus, what does it mean to be childlike?
4. What does it look like to be dependent on God? Think of a time when you tried to do something independent from God, was it harder than it should have been? How would it have looked if you allowed yourself to depend on God in that situation? How does mature dependence on God contrast with cultural views of independence?
5. How do you think God is revealing Himself to you in your personal life? How is that directing your purpose?
6. Why is Jesus concerned about who you are becoming? Of what consequence is that to the Kingdom of God?
7. “Becoming is learning and unlearning things.”—What is something that you need to learn or unlearn in order to become the person God has called you to be? (principles, habits, experiences, etc.)
8. How does Ephesians 4:14 still clarify ways that we are to grow up?
9. When was the last time you felt the conviction of the Holy Spirit? Do you “call the shots” in your life, or do you look to the Lord for direction?
10. When was the last time you read God’s Word and it leapt up at you? What do you do when you lose your sense of wonder? Where was the last place you saw it? How do you find it again?