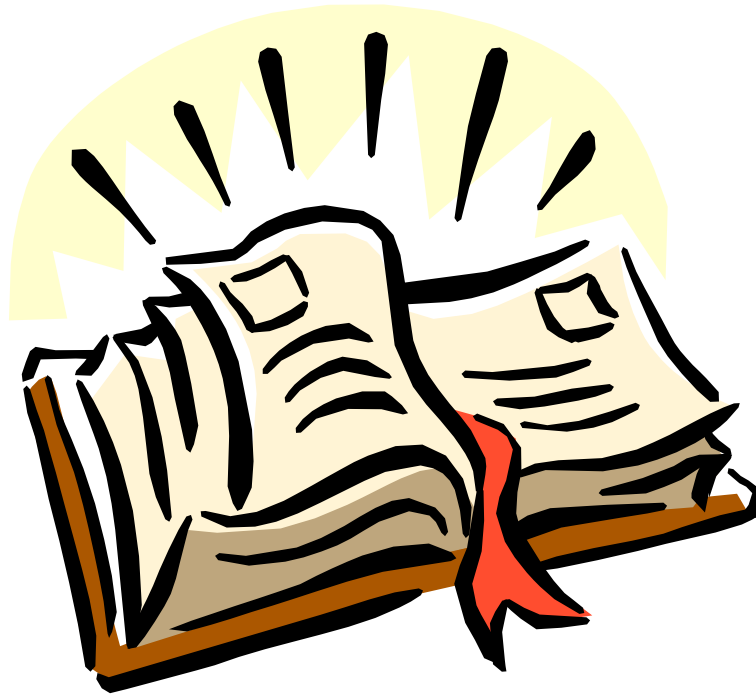


Bible Time for Kids!



CHILDREN'S DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF:



LESSON TITLE: Who is the Greatest?

THEME: Whoever humbles himself is the greatest in the kingdom of God.

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 18:1-5

Dear Parents...

Welcome to Bible Time for Kids! Bible Time for Kids is a series of daily devotions (five per week) for children and their families through which we hope to reinforce Sunday's lesson, provide ideas for the application of God's Word, and encourage your children to develop a daily devotional life. Since the age of your child will affect how they respond to the content, we suggest you make them age appropriate by adding your own ideas.

In the lesson this week, we learned about **the one who is the greatest in the kingdom of Heaven (insert script ref)**. We encourage you to review these scriptures with your child. Who is the greatest in God's kingdom? Is it the person who seems to be the most important? Is it the person who goes around telling everyone how great they are? Jesus said that those who want to be great should be a servant to others!

God's kingdom is a lot different than the kingdoms of this world. The world tells us that we need to be the greatest by being the strongest, most powerful, or even by taking advantage of others. But the only way to **greatness in God's kingdom is by putting others before ourselves.**

We hope you and your family will be blessed as you study God's Word together.

God's House

Text: John 14:2 - "In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you."

Also read John 14:1-4

Have you ever met someone who lived in another country? Maybe you have met someone from China or Africa or Russia? It is always fun to ask them questions about their homeland and to hear about far-away places you have never been. You could ask what it is like to live there, or what it looks like, or what the kids do for fun there. Since you have never been there, you would be trusting them to give you a clear picture of what it is like.

Imagine how fun it was for the people listening to Jesus as He began to describe a place they had never been before—Heaven! Jesus wanted the people to understand what Heaven is like. Many of the parables begin with the words, "The kingdom of Heaven is like..."

In the Lesson you studied this week (Matthew 18:1-5), the disciples wanted to get more of the inside scoop on Heaven—they wanted to know who was the greatest! Probably because each one of them thought they should be that person! Jesus answered in a way they did not expect, revealing that the way they supposed things to be in Heaven was quite different than what it was really like!

If we want to know more about Heaven, Jesus is the one to ask; He dwelt with the Father before He came to earth and now dwells with the Father forever at His right hand. Join with us on the journey this week to learn more about His Father's house.

And, celebrate the truth that you will someday live in the Father's house with Jesus! In John 14:1-4, Jesus says, "In My Father's house are many mansions. If it were not so I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you." There's room for us in His Father's house!

- Have you ever met someone from another country? What did you learn?
- How can we learn about heaven?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Heaven: God's home and the home of all who love him. Jesus promised to prepare a place for his people in heaven.

“I’m Just a Humble Servant”

Text: Matthew 18:4 - “Therefore whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.”

Also read Matthew 18:1-5

When I was in College, there was a friend of mine that always called himself a “humble” servant. His other friends and I were not quick to agree with the title he took upon himself. In fact, all his boasting about being humble made him quite the opposite in our minds. He may as well have been saying, “Take notice, everyone! I’m just an incredible person for Jesus. I’m the greatest!” You may have heard the old saying, “Actions speak louder than words!” While a person’s words can do very little to persuade, a person’s actions can speak volumes. What kinds of actions show a person to be truly humble?

A humble person is not a “Me first” person. They do not assume themselves to be of greater importance than others. Thus, they are considerate to others. In Romans 12:12, we are told, “Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love. In honor giving preference to one another.” You may show humility (being humble) by allowing someone to squeeze ahead of you in line. You may show humility by letting your little sister choose her piece of pie before you, even though you know she will probably choose the bigger piece.

A humble person has a submissive attitude—the attitude of a true servant. In Peter 5:5, we read, “Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility....” Humble people are obedient to those in authority over them (parents, teachers, church leaders). And, they are not insistent on their own way. They do not need to win an argument. They are quick to give up their rights to others in order that God will be honored in their life.

True humility is a fruit of the Holy Spirit in your life. It comes as a result of being closely connected to God. The tricky part is this—the minute you say to yourself or others, “I’m so humble,” you’re not. A truly humble person does not boast!

- Why did his friends not believe the college student who boasted of being humble?
- If one is truly humble, how might it show?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Humble Servant: Someone who thinks of others first and is willing to serve them and put their needs first.

Great for God

Text: Luke 9:46 - "Then a dispute arose among them as to which of them would be greatest."

Also read Luke 9:46-48

Jesus was always surprising His disciples! Of course, it seems, too, they were a little slow to catch on to what being a disciple was all about. For instance, one time some of Jesus' disciples actually got into an argument over who would be the *greatest* one among them in the Kingdom of God! How amazed His disciples must have been when Jesus, knowing their argument, positioned a little child near Him and said, "Whoever receives this little child in My name receives Me; and whoever receives Me receives Him who sent Me. For he who is least among you all will be great" (Luke 9:48). In Mark 9:35 Jesus added, "If anyone desires to be first, he shall be last of all and servant of all."

Once more, the disciples of Jesus were baffled when, at their special celebration of Passover, Jesus put on the humble clothes of a servant and began to wash the disciples feet and wipe them dry with a towel. This was just too much for the disciples, especially Peter who protested, "Lord, are You washing my feet?" Jesus explained to His puzzled disciples, "You call me Teacher and Lord, and you say well, for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you" (John 13:13-15). In those days, the washing of feet was the lowliest act a servant could perform. Jesus was teaching His disciples not to elevate (lift) themselves up above one another, but to lower themselves to serve one another.

Contrary to the thinking of the world, the person who is great in God's eyes is the person who is humble like a child and lowly like a servant, the servant of all! In Philippians 2:5-8 we read, "Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross." Surprising but true, the way to being the greatest is not a path up, but a path down, following Jesus example.

- How did Jesus surprise His disciples?
- Who does God say will be the greatest in Kingdom of God? How is that different than what we find in the world?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Great: To be remarkable or outstanding. In order to be great for the Lord, we need to be humble and lowly.

Day Four

The King of the Hill

"I'm Better Than You Are"

Text: Matthew 20:21 - "And He said to her, 'What do you wish?' She said to Him, 'Grant that these two sons of mine may sit, one on Your right hand and the other on the left, in Your kingdom.'"

Also read Matthew 20:20-28

Imagine a group of children playing "king of the hill" on a mound of dirt, pushing and shoving to get to the top and raise their arms and shout, "I'm king of the hill." The disciples must have seemed like such a group as they were determined to get the most important position in the Kingdom of God. Sadly, Jesus' disciples just didn't "get" what God's Kingdom was all about.

Do you remember how Jesus settled one such argument among His disciples? Calling a small child to stand near Him, He said, "...he who is least among you all will be great" (Luke 9:48). In Matthew 20, the mother of James and John came with a request for Jesus that, once more, created quite a stir among the disciples. She asked if her two sons could sit on the right hand and left hand of Jesus in His kingdom—the two top spots! The other disciples were angry--each of them wanted those spots! Jesus, once more, called the disciples over and reasoned with them: "...You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those who are great exercise authority over them. Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave—just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many." Jesus' disciples were slow to understand that His kingdom was totally different than the world's kingdoms. Those who would be great would not be those who pushed their way ahead, loved to rule over others, or who loved fancy titles, and the praise of men.

Jesus came to serve and so must we. If we want to be truly great, we will not be the one who tries to climb over our friends to the top, we will be the one lifting and pushing our friends to the top. It is the "servant of all" who will be on the top of the King's hill in Kingdom of Heaven.

- Why were the disciples arguing?
- What did Jesus teach the disciples?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Servant: Someone who helps others by "serving" them.

Jesus Loves the Little Children

Text: Matthew 19:14 - "But Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of heaven.'"

Also read Matthew 19:13-15

If you remember the song about Jesus loving the little children, you can sing it. The words go like this, "Jesus loves the little children, all the children of the world. Red and yellow, black and white, they are precious in His sight, Jesus loves the little children of the world." This is a good thing to remember about Jesus. He loves you very much.

In Matthew 19:13-15, Jesus shows us how much He loved the little children. He wanted to have the children around Him. He corrected the disciples for trying to keep the children away from Him. He said, "Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them for of such is the kingdom of heaven." Not only does Jesus want all the little children to come to Him, but also all the big children and adults and old people, too!

Jesus wants everyone to come to Him. Jesus desires that we come as little children. How do we come as a little child? We come with a child-like faith. Have you ever seen a little child jump into his mom and dad's arms, trusting that they will catch him? A little child has great faith in mom and dad. They know it is safe to trust them. We need such a faith in Jesus, knowing that His loving arms will catch us when we are in a "risky" situation. We can trust Him with our very lives!

- How does Jesus feel about children?
- How did some of the disciples feel about children?
- What did Jesus teach them?

Kid's Prayer Time



Jesus showed us the way to greatness. It is not by trying to work our way to the top. It is not by hurting others as we try to get there. We need to become a servant of others if we want to be great in God's kingdom. As we pray, let's ask God to help us to be servants in His kingdom. Help us to want to be great, but great in the way that Jesus says is great!

Memory Verse...

First and Second Grade

"You must become like little children to enter God's kingdom."

Third Grade and Above

"...Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven."

Matthew 18:3