

the  Venues  
Go Deep  
“Like a Child”  
June 25, 2017

*What childhood activity do you wish you could still participate in as an adult?*

*What is your favorite memory of childhood?*

**Read Matthew 18:1-5**

*What is your definition of “greatness?”*

*Who does our culture identify as great?*

*How would you answer the disciple’s question, “Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?”*

*How did Jesus answer their question?*

*What childlike qualities do you think Jesus is emphasizing?*

*What clue does Jesus give in 18:4?*

*Define “humble.” Who comes to your mind as a humble person?*

To understand the point Jesus is making, it helps to know that children in Jesus’ day were on the low rung of the social ladder. The word Matthew uses for “humility” means “to lose your prestige or status.” A child was, by virtue of being a child, humble. In that day, the child had no prestige or status.

*How did Jesus himself show this quality of “greatness?”*

**See John 13:1-17; Luke 22:25-26; Philippians 2:5-8**

*So, based on Jesus’ object lesson, what is “greatness” in the kingdom of heaven?*

*What does the inclusion of a child, even the elevation of a child to “greatness” status, say about how Jesus sees people?*

**Take a close look at 18:3.**

*What stands out to you in that verse?*

*What needs to change in you to fit the criteria for greatness in the kingdom of heaven?*

*How does your perception of people line up with Jesus’ perception of people? Any changes needed?*

**Read 18:5 again.**

*Why do you think Jesus identifies so closely with children?*

We had communion after the teaching Sunday. Maybe you want to share a communion meal of simple drink and food as a group. As you do, **read John 12:32** and think about Jesus’ love for a promise to all people.