



**MESSAGE NOTES & SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE
WEEK 3 – THE SURPRISING NATURE OF THE KINGDOM**

³³They came to Capernaum. When he was in the house, he asked them, “What were you arguing about on the road?” ³⁴But they kept quiet because on the way they had argued about who was the greatest. ³⁵Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, “Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last, and the servant of all.”

– Mark 9:33-35

BIG IDEA:

Greatness is defined by _____ not _____

³⁶He took a little child whom he placed among them. Taking the child in his arms, he said to them, ³⁷“Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me.”

– Mark 9:36-37

**We demonstrate greatness when we give _____
_____ to those with _____**

¹³People were bringing little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them, but the disciples rebuked them.

¹⁴When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.

¹⁵Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.” ¹⁶And he took the children in his arms, placed his hands on them and blessed them.

– Mark 10:13-16

**Entrance into the Kingdom requires the _____ and _____
of a _____**

**The King _____ himself to _____ and _____ all who
humbly come to him**

⁶But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: “God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble.” ⁷Submit yourselves, then, to God...⁸Come near to God and he will come near to you...¹⁰Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.

– James 4:6-8, 10

ADDITIONAL NOTES

DIGGING DEEPER:

1. How does the world/culture that we live in typically define greatness?
2. How is greatness defined in God’s Kingdom?
3. How does the Kingdom definition of greatness challenge the world’s definition of greatness?
4. How can we demonstrate greatness as followers of Jesus?
5. Why did Jesus get angry with his disciples in Mark 10:14?
6. Was his response surprising to you? Why or why not?
7. What posture did Jesus say is required to enter into the Kingdom of God?
8. How might this posture be an obstacle to some people from entering the Kingdom?
9. What is significant about Jesus’ attitude towards children that he demonstrated in Mark 10:13-16?
10. How can our response to children and those who are most spiritually dependent and desolate demonstrate that we understand the nature of God’s Kingdom?
11. What are some practical ways that you can demonstrate Kingdom greatness through service this week?