

# Matthew: Your Little Faith

Discussion Guide for May 23 and 24, 2026

## Summary

In Matthew 18:1-4, the disciples come to Jesus with a question that reveals exactly where their hearts are: "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" They had been arguing about it on the road – about which of them would hold the highest position of power once Jesus claimed His throne. Jesus answers by doing something unexpected. He calls over a young child and tells them that unless they become like that child, they will never even enter the kingdom. Greatness in God's kingdom is upside-down from greatness in the world. And the key to greatness in that kingdom is **humility**. This passage invites us to stop chasing the world's version of greatness and start pursuing the kind God actually elevates.

## Ice Breaker

Think of someone you'd describe as genuinely humble. What is it about them that comes to mind that speaks to humility?

## Key Verses

1. Matthew 18:1-4
2. Mark 9:33-35
3. Romans 12:3
4. Philippians 2:3-8

## Discussion Questions

1. The disciples wanted greatness as the world defines it – power, position, and people serving them. Where do you notice that same desire showing up in your own life?
2. Jesus said real greatness is found in serving others. Who in your life models that kind of quiet, often unnoticed service, and what can you learn from them?
3. The pastor defined biblical humility as accurately recognizing your own worth without elevating yourself above others. Why is that harder than it sounds?
4. Humility is not self-deprecation. Why do we so often confuse the two, and what's the danger in it?
5. Is there something you've avoided doing because, deep down, it felt beneath you? What would it look like to lay that pride down?

6. Where in your week do compliments, approval, or recognition tend to threaten your humility — and how can you stay aware of those moments?

### **Life Application**

*Pursue greatness through service* — Look for one concrete way to serve someone this week, especially where no one will notice or applaud it.

### **Key Takeaways**

1. Greatness in God's kingdom is upside-down from the world's. The world counts how many serve you; the kingdom counts how many you serve.
2. Humility is not thinking less of yourself — it's thinking of yourself less. It's having a right view of who you are, without placing yourself above anyone else.
3. Nothing is beneath you. Jesus, the King of the universe, washed His disciples' feet. If a servant's task wasn't beneath Him, it isn't beneath us.
4. Pride is quietly fed by the approval of others. Simply being aware of those moments is more than half the battle.
5. Humility is the doorway to the kingdom. We cannot be saved until we recognize we are sinners who cannot save ourselves and need a Savior.