



Matthew: New King, New Kingdom

Cell Notes 2020

STUDY 6. Children of the Kingdom - Valuing the Powerless

Aim: To see the upside-down nature of God's kingdom where the powerless are valued and the vulnerable are protected, and to see how we might nurture a 'childlike' attitude in our discipleship.

To Start With: What is your favourite childhood memory? (Get everyone to contribute at least one thing).

Q1. Read Matthew 18.1–5

- a) Why do you think the disciples wanted to know who was 'the greatest' in the Kingdom of Heaven?
- b) How do you think children were treated in the culture Jesus was brought up in? In what ways do you think Jesus' attitude might be different from those of the culture around him?

Note for Leaders: In Jesus' day, children had almost no social status and no legal rights, and were therefore very vulnerable. Jesus makes the point of bringing one into his 'inner circle' to show how much God values the powerless in his Kingdom.

Q2. a) Jesus points to children as an example of 'humility' (v. 4). What do you think humility is? What do you think is the difference between being humble and false humility (e.g. either saying we're no good at anything or alternatively 'humble-bragging' are?

b) In Ancient Greco-Roman culture, humility was seen as a weakness or even a vice. To what extent do you think our modern culture struggles with the concept of humility?

Q3. Read Matthew 18.10–14

- a) What is God's attitude and character towards those who stray away from him or are vulnerable? Why?
- b) Who do you think the 'lost sheep' might represent in our society and our church today?
- c) How best do you think we can practically welcome in those who are vulnerable, straying, or not valued highly by society into our fellowship?

Q4. In this section, Jesus calls his disciples, including us today, to adopt a child-like attitude to our faith. What do you think this might look like in practice? What are the hardest things about this for you?

*In small groups, finish by picking **one** area of becoming childlike in character towards God, and pray about this.*