

The Greatest in the Kingdom (Middle and Upper Elementary)

Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Overview

In this week's Gospel passage Jesus corrects His disciples when they argue about who among them is the greatest. Jesus points to the innocent joy of a child as the model for entry into the Kingdom of God. In this lesson, students will consider what it means to be the greatest in the Kingdom and create rules for greatness in the Kingdom of God.

Directions

1. First, have your students complete the **Before Reading the Gospel** chart from the **Who is the Greatest?** handout.
2. Next, have students read the Gospel passage, or read it aloud to your students, and then answer the focus questions. You may have students answer them on their own or you may discuss them together as a class.
3. Review and discuss the answers to the focus questions.
4. Then, have students complete the **After Reading the Gospel** chart from the **Who is the Greatest?** handout.
5. Conclude by having students work with a partner to create a list of three rules for membership in the Kingdom of God.

Answer Key

Focus Questions

1. Jesus taught about how He would have to suffer, die, and rise again on the third day. This is the second prediction of His Passion and Resurrection. He taught the same thing in last week's Gospel.
2. The disciples were arguing about which of them was the greatest.
3. "If anyone wishes to be first, he shall be the last of all and the servant of all."
4. Jesus uses a child as an example, showing that the innocence, awe and wonder, joy, and peace of a child is more desirable in the Kingdom of God than ambition and

pride. When we accept these qualities in others and in ourselves, we accept Christ, and we accept the Father.