# REAL VALUES

26 MAY 2024



At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Who, then, is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?"

— Matthew 18:1 (NIV)

"If anyone causes one of these little ones—those who believe in me—to stumble, it would be better for them to have a large millstone hung around their neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea."

— Matthew 18:6 (NIV)



#### HOOK



Crazy contests from around the world include wife carrying, worm charming, and toe wrestling.

#### **ENGAGE**



What's a popular competition you've joined and really wanted to excel at?

### LINK



- Our world is concerned with status and hierarchy. Even Jesus' disciples were wondering, "Who is the greatest?"
- But the Kingdom of God has a completely different value system, where a child can be our role model. Rather than status, God values humility.
- God also values every single life. This means no one is higher or lower.
- It means fighting sin, which deceives people and brings them further from the Kingdom of God.
- This also means everyone is worth seeking out. God's heart of love is for all people.
- As God's children, we learn to love like Him, in humility and patience toward others.

#### **PAUSE**

Pick a question and pray together...

## Discuss Together (pick one)

- Have you experienced being treated (whether positively or negatively) based on your status or appearance? What happened? What is the difference when compared with the values in God's kingdom?
- Who is someone you feel has truly invested time and effort into building a relationship with you? Is there someone you would also like to invest time in?

## Pray Together (pick one)

- Pray to see the world and people with the values of heaven, not of earth. Pray for humility, and not to see yourself as better than others, no matter their status or position.
- Pray for God's grace to guide others into a relationship with Him, even if it takes time and effort and is not "convenient." Pray to love others as God loves them.

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"In the same way your Father in heaven is not willing that any of these little ones should perish."

— Matthew 18:14 (NIV)

For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you.

— Romans 12:3 (NIV)