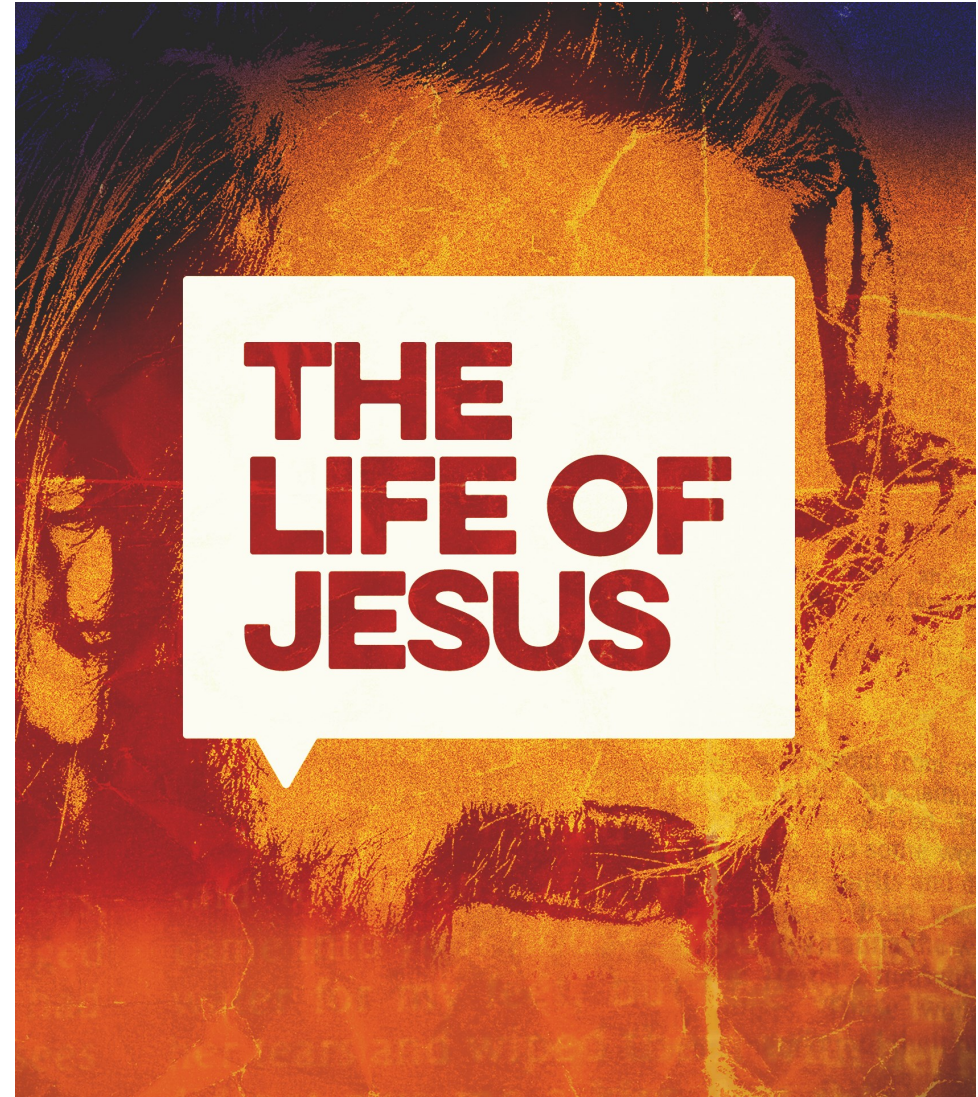


NOTES >>

# SERMON SERIES STUDY GUIDE

**NORTH:** March 11 | **SOUTH:** March 18 | **CHAPEL:** April 8



## JESUS ON GREATNESS

Pastor Kevan Smith



This study guide was written by the Pastors at Hope Lutheran Church in Fargo, ND. Find this resource and others at [FARGOHOPE.ORG/RESOURCES](https://fargo.hope.org/resources)

# JESUS ON GREATNESS

## **READ:** Matthew 18:1-11

There is a quest for greatness in every human heart. Created in God's image, we were made to reach for the stars. We were made to use our gifts and abilities to achieve and attain our best. In every human heart, there is also the propensity to become prideful and arrogant. When sin entered the world, and therefore into our lives, it impacted everything including the human quest for greatness. When you see the sin of pride and arrogance in other people's lives it more than likely turns you off. But what about in yourself? Jesus' disciples came to him one day asking the question, "Which one of us is greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven?" The disciple's quest for greatness was going in a direction that offended Jesus and what he stood for as God's Son. A lesson on greatness was in order for his disciples that day and the same lesson that Jesus taught his followers then continues to inform, challenge and correct his followers to this day, including you and me.

## **QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION**

1. Is striving after greatness right or wrong?
2. Why did the disciples' question about greatness cause Jesus concern?
3. How does human sinfulness affect our striving after greatness?

4. Why did Jesus use a little child as an object lesson?
5. What point was Jesus making for his disciples by connecting turning from one's sins to his definition of greatness? (See Matthew 18:2-4)
6. In what ways is "getting right in our relationship with God" a good biblical definition of greatness?
7. How does Philippians 2:1-11 support what Jesus is teaching us, as his disciples, about humility?
8. What is a definition of humility you can put into practice in your life?

## **PRAYER**

Lord, help us understand and put your Son's definition of greatness into practice in our lives. We want to be great in your eyes, but we confess that our pride and arrogance gets in the way causing us to stray from who you want us to be. We confess our sin of pride. Make our hearts more child-like, wanting to please you. By your Holy Spirit's guidance and power, make us humble by following the example of your Son. In Jesus' name. Amen.