



The CROSS and ME



Children's Sermons for the Six Weeks of Lent and Easter Sunday

Who Is the Greatest? + 70 x 7 (Again and Again) + Don't Give Up!
Lost and Found + God's Kingdom Grows + The Cross and Me
The Resurrection and the Life

The CROSS and ME

Who Is the Greatest?

A Children's Sermon for the First Week of Lent

—Matthew 18:1-5—

Hello, boys and girls, and welcome to the season of Lent, when we prepare for the time when Jesus went to the cross for us to forgive the sins of you and me. Today I have a question for you to think about. The question is “Who is the greatest?” The disciples asked Jesus this question one day when they were with him. And we still ask this question today in our world. At first glance, you would think the answer might be that the richest, the tallest, the strongest, the best looking and the most successful are the greatest.

But Jesus did something amazing when the disciples asked him this question. He took a child, just like one of you, and put that child in front of them. He said, “Whoever humbles himself like a little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven” (Matthew 18:4). That means each one of you is the greatest in the kingdom of God. You see, God does not value the most powerful and the most famous. He values the little, the humble, the trusting and faithful. You can see this all through Scripture. God chose David to be king of Israel, even though he was the youngest and smallest of Jesse's eight sons. God chose Mary, who was just a young girl in the little town of Nazareth, to be the mother of Jesus. God chose a little boy with five loaves and two fish to give Jesus his meal in order to feed 5000 people. God chose a widow with only two small coins to show the people in the temple with Jesus that her gift was greater than all the rest.

Jesus himself shows us his greatness by becoming the least for us. He was born a little baby in a lowly cattle stall in Bethlehem. He humbled himself by riding on a donkey into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, and he took on the role of a servant by washing his disciples' feet on Maundy Thursday. His biggest show of greatness by far, though, was going to the cross to suffer and die for us in our place. He had done nothing to deserve this sentence of death. He had lived a sinless life. Yet he let himself be whipped and beaten and nailed to a cross like a common criminal to die. His death brought life to you and me because he paid the punishment we deserved for our sins there. After Jesus' humble sacrifice on the cross, God raised him to life on the third day and Jesus ascended into heaven forty days later and is seated at the right hand of God above. For this reason, he is our greatest friend, our greatest Savior and our greatest Lord. And he will be forever. One day you and I will be with him there and live with him eternally. Each one of you is the greatest in the eyes of Jesus because he loves you and cares for you and went to the cross for you.

Some people may say there is nothing you can do because you are just a kid. But Jesus let the world know that little kids like you do matter. You matter because you believe and trust in Jesus and you have the Good News to share. What is the Good News? It is the Good News that Jesus loves you.

Who can you say, “Jesus loves you” to today? How can you show people the love of Jesus with an act of kindness or a little gift? Now is the time to share that Jesus is the greatest and little ol' you and I have the greatest future to look forward to.

Jesus, thank you for showing us how great you are by humbly going to the cross for us. Help us to live humble lives for you, giving you all the glory for the greatness in our lives of forgiveness, life and salvation. Amen.

Activities for the First Week of Lent

Who Is the Greatest?

Hidden Words

Find the words from the story of Jesus' palm parade.

P K I N G F N W R
Q A D O W M B E T
A I L E H A C L Y
T U G M O D O C E
E R G T S P A O K
L F T O A E T M N
R O A D N L S E O
N J S I N G R R D
G I U K A E J B V

PALMS + DONKEY + ROAD + COATS
HOSANNA + SING + KING + WELCOME

The greatest King is coming! Look along the road to Jerusalem and you'll see people waving palm branches. How many words can you make from the letters in **palm branches**?

P A L M B R A N C H E S

What Do You See?

Complete this picture of a donkey carrying King Jesus along the road to Jerusalem. What do you see?

