

## THE BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO COMMUNITY

### WHAT WOULD A COMMUNITY LOOK LIKE IF JESUS WERE IN CHARGE?

At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Who, then, is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" 2 He called a little child to him, and placed the child among them. 3 And he said: "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. 4 Therefore, whoever takes the lowly position of this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. 5 And whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me. 6 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. 7 Woe to the world because of the things that cause people to stumble! Such things must come, but woe to the person through whom they come! 8 If your hand or your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life maimed or crippled than to have two hands or two feet and be thrown into eternal fire. 9 And if your eye causes you to stumble, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into the fire of hell. 10 See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that their angels in heaven always see the face of my Father in heaven." *Matthew 18:1-10*

### THE BIG QUESTION: WHO IS THE GREATEST?

#### THE UNEXPECTED ANSWERS

- Unless you become like a child you cannot enter Jesus' community (*the Kingdom of Heaven - KoH*)
- In Jesus' community, the greatest is the one who becomes the least

#### A SERIOUS EXAMPLE

*Matthew 18:8-9*

#### A NEW PERSPECTIVE ON POWER

- How we treat others is how we treat Jesus
- God views all people with love and mercy, therefore our community must treat all people with dignity

#### NEXT STEPS

*Identify the place you find your sense of greatness. Is it in humility in belonging to the KoH, or in an upside down sense of power and prestige?*

*Are you clinging to something which prevents you from entering into the KoH and life? What is it? What step (no matter how radical) must you take?*

*How do you view/treat those with little power and/or low social status?*

*If these people bear Jesus' name, how ought we treat them?*

*In what practical way can you treat such a person with dignity and respect?*

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