

Discussion Guide for Matthew 18:1-9

For group discussion to be fruitful and engaging for everyone in your group, make sure that your discussion groups are not larger than 4 people. If possible, break up into groups of 2 or 3.

Larger Group: (5 minutes)

- Welcome everyone
- Introduce the direction for the evening.

Smaller Groups: (20-25 minutes)

Give the following instructions and break into small groups (2-3 people).

Break into small groups and have everyone turn to Matthew 18:1-9

Have someone read through the passage twice:

- Read the first time from the perspective of the disciples
- Read the second time from the perspective of the children

After having someone read the passage please use the following questions in the following way.

- Read the question.
- Have each person respond to the question by going around the circle giving space for discussion and questions around each person's response.

Discussion questions:

When the disciples ask Jesus who is the greatest in the Kingdom of God, he doesn't chastise, he flips the script. They may have imagined great men like Moses, or Elijah (see Matthew 17:3) but he drew their attention to a child. Have someone read Matthew 18:1-5.

- Who do you view as a model of greatness? Why?
- Jesus points to humility as the highest characteristic of greatness. What characteristic would you have placed in the highest rank? Why?
- What is the greatest challenge for you to live in child-like humility?

Jesus is clear that there are threats to living in this world with child-like humility. He also makes it clear that he has the final say about the temptations and threats to the children of God. Have someone read Matthew 18:6-7.

- How do Jesus's words in these verses challenge you?
- How do Jesus's words in these verses comfort you?

Jesus also makes it clear that we have internal threats to living in child-like humility. We must deal forcefully with the habits, direction and focus of our lives. Have someone read Matthew 18:8-9.

- What activities do you need to stop doing so that you can walk in child-like humility with Christ?
- What place do you need to stop going to, could be real or virtual, do you need to stop going to so that you can walk in child-like humility with Christ?
- How do you need to change what you focus your attention on so that you can walk in child-like humility with Christ?

(Pray and minister with each person after they answer #3 rather than the whole group at once)

(see more on next page)

Larger Group:

Return to larger group to give summary of your discussion in smaller groups then (5-10 minutes)

Allow time to pray for the lost, end with B.L.E.S.S. (10-15 minutes)

Where are group members in the B.L.E.S.S. process? Model for them how to answer briefly, for example:

"I'm praying for _____".

"I have been having good conversations with _____".

"I'm having lunch with _____
on _____ (day of the week)."

Closing prayer - (2-5-minutes)