

GRADUATE STUDIES IN CHURCH LEADERSHIP

COURSE 2: THE LEADER KILLER- Matthew 18:1-5

February 1, 2026

THE SITUATION:

¹ "At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, 'Who then is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?'" Matthew 18:1 (BSB)

³³ "Then they came to Capernaum. While Jesus was in the house, He asked them, 'What were you discussing on the way?' ³⁴ But they were silent, for on the way they had been arguing about which of them was the greatest." Mark 9:33-34 (BSB)

- THE APOSTLES ARE CAUGHT IN A _____-_____ PATTERN OF _____.

LESSONS IN HUMILITY AND LEADERSHIP:

² "Jesus invited a little child to stand among them." Matthew 18:2 (BSB)

³⁶ "...Taking the child in His arms..." Mark 9:36 (BSB)

³ "'Truly I tell you,' He said, 'unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.'" Matthew 18:3 (BSB)

- LESSON #1: THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS _____ TO THE _____.
¹⁹ "The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity, and debauchery; ²⁰idolatry and sorcery; hatred, **discord, jealousy**, and rage; **rivalries, divisions, factions**, ²¹and **envy**; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God." Galatians 5:19-21 (BSB)

- PRIDE IS THE _____ OF _____ WITH _____ AND _____ IN HIS _____.

⁴ "Therefore, whoever humbles himself like this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven." Matthew 18:4 (BSB)

- LESSON #2: _____ IN THE _____ REQUIRES _____.

- CHILDLIKE HUMILITY IS EVIDENT IN A _____ FOR _____.

⁵ "I am the vine and you are the branches. The one who remains in Me, and I in him, will bear much fruit. For apart from Me you can do nothing." John 15:5 (BSB)

- CHILDLIKE HUMILITY IS EVIDENT IN A _____ OF

³ "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." Matthew 5:3 (BSB)

- CHILDLIKE HUMILITY IS EVIDENT IN _____

¹⁵ "If you love Me, you will keep My commandments." John 14:15 (BSB)

⁵ "And whoever welcomes a little child like this in My name welcomes Me." Matthew 18:5 (BSB)

³⁷ "Whoever welcomes one of these little children in My name welcomes Me, and whoever welcomes Me welcomes not only Me, but the One who sent Me." Mark 9:37 (BSB)

- LESSON #3: OUR _____ IS EVIDENT IN OUR _____.

³⁵ "...If anyone wants to be first, he must be the last of all and the servant of all."

Mark 9:35 (BSB)

⁴⁵ "...the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve..." Mark 10:45 (BSB)

BOTTOM LINE:

THE ANTIDOTE TO _____ IS NOT IT'S _____.

NEXT STEPS

- VISION NIGHT
 - Come participate in Vision Night tonight at 5pm for dinner, and 6pm for the Vision
- BULLETIN AND SEAT TAGS
 - We have installed new seat tags to ensure immediate access to the most up-to-date about GNG, events, signups, giving, etc.