

DISCUSSION GUIDE

TITLE: *Great Disciples (Part 2)*

MAIN TEXT: Matthew 18:1

SPEAKER: Pastor Chad Gilligan

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5. Great Disciples Practice Humility

READ: Matthew 18:1-4, 1 Peter 5:6-7, 1 Peter 5:5

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- Why do you think Jesus used a child to illustrate greatness in the Kingdom?
- What does “humility of self” and “humility of service” look like in your life?
- How can humility help us avoid pride in ministry, work, and relationships?

FOLLOW-UP PROMPT:

Think of a situation this week where you could intentionally choose to take the “lowly position” for the sake of Christ. What would it require of you?

KEY TAKEAWAY:

Humility is not weakness—it’s strength under God’s control. Great disciples choose to be small so that Christ can be great.

6. Great Disciples Strengthen Others

READ: Matthew 18:6-7, 1 Corinthians 8:9, Galatians 6:1-2

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- What does it look like to be careful not to cause another believer to stumble?
- How can we restore someone gently without becoming judgmental?
- How do we balance confronting sin and carrying someone’s burden in love?

FOLLOW-UP PROMPT:

Identify one person you could encourage or help restore in their walk with Christ this week. What is one small step you could take toward that?

KEY TAKEAWAY:

Strengthening others means both preventing spiritual harm and helping restore those who have fallen.

7. Great Disciples Stay Away from Sin

READ: Matthew 18:8–9, Romans 6:23, Romans 6:1–2, 1 Corinthians 10:13

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- Why do you think Jesus uses such extreme language about removing sin?
- How can we be intentional about separating ourselves from sin in everyday life?
- What role does God’s faithfulness play in helping us overcome temptation?

FOLLOW-UP PROMPT:

Think of one temptation or sin that has been persistent in your life. What practical “way of escape” has God already provided that you could take this week?

KEY TAKEAWAY:

Great disciples don’t manage sin—they flee from it, trusting God’s strength to endure temptation.

8. Great Disciples Seek the Lost

READ: Matthew 18:10–14, Hebrews 1:14, Psalm 34:7, Luke 15:3–7, 1 Peter 4:8, James 5:19–20

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- Why is God’s heart for the one who has wandered so significant?
- How can we balance caring for the “ninety-nine” while pursuing the “one”?
- What does it mean to “seek the straggler” in our church or community?

FOLLOW-UP PROMPT:

Name one person in your life who is far from God or wandering in their faith. What intentional step could you take to show them God’s love this week?

KEY TAKEAWAY:

Seeking the lost is not optional—it reflects the Father’s heart and is central to the mission of every disciple.

REFLECTION & PRAYER

REFLECTION: Which of the four traits from Part 2—humility, strengthening others, staying away from sin, or seeking the lost—do you most need to grow in right now?

SUGGESTED PRAYER:

Lord, make me a disciple who reflects Your heart. Give me humility, courage to strengthen others, purity to stay away from sin, and boldness to seek the lost. May my life show that it’s truly not about me, but all about You. Amen.