



## SDG Discussion Guide

Matthew 18:1-14

November 25, 2018

For starters:

Which would best describe you as a youth: “Little Angel”... “Holy Terror”... or somewhere in between? Elaborate.

Which “woe” would be the worst way to go: (a) Canoe ride over a 250-foot waterfall? (b) Parachute failing to open? (c) Running out of fuel in outer space? (d) Being a late-night snack for a pride of lions?

Guideline: The following questions are meant to provide points of further interaction with the respective sermon text and surrounding passage. Feel free to forward the questions to your small group members ahead of the respective Sunday. Group members may also find these questions in print on that Sunday.

As you can, read aloud the passage in your group; read it aloud a second time but from a different Bible translation (eg, read from the Message after first reading from the ESV). Before you begin your discussion, pray and ask God to speak to your group. Notice, what may God be highlighting for your discussion and learning?

Now that you have read the text together, what points and questions arose? Spend plenty of time in your group to address these. Explore and see how God may steer the discussion. The following are further questions for interaction.

1. Why would the disciples want to be “the greatest”?
2. What childlike qualities is Jesus emphasizing? Why do you think this is important for Jesus’ kingdom?
3. Why is causing a child to sin such a serious offense?
4. Although evil is inevitable (vv 7-9), how are we still responsible for others’ spiritual welfare?
5. Who are the “little ones” in verses 12-14?
6. What childlike quality do you want or need to recapture? Why?
7. When were you a sheep that wandered off? How did God get you back?
8. What may need to shift in your attitude toward those who “wander”? Toward the weak? The powerless? What could be an area in your life that causes problems for others? What will you do about it?

Spend some time in prayer. Ask God to continue to speak to you from his word in this passage. Continue to thank Him for His presence in your life. Ask Him for insight into “childlikeness” in your life. Ask Him for the joy of a child, for a chance to know anew what it feels like to be both carefree and utterly dependent on Him. Go forth once again with the security, peace and sustaining love of the Father.

\*These questions were adapted from *The Serendipity Bible for Groups* (Zondervan, 1998).