**Guarding the Future - Study Guide and Small Group Discussion Questions**

The beginning of chapter 18 presents the disciples asking a question. It seemed an innocent question, but it was not; Jesus knew that the disciples had a hidden motive, and thus, His peculiar answer broke and reversed the traditional mindset about greatness that the disciples had. This reversal becomes the foundation of Jesus’ followers as they seek to establish their place in God’s Kingdom.

What can you say about our human tendency to seek recognition and to exert authority over others? Is this necessarily a bad thing? How do we make sure that we are not driven by this?

Were there times when you struggled with this? How did you fare?

Jesus expects a child-like faith from His followers. What does this child-like faith demand from us, Christians?

Taking up a lowly position means that we resist self-reliance. What are some practical steps that we can do to help achieve this in our daily lives?

Jesus showed how serious He is with guarding the “little ones” from stumbling. He also warns those who intentionally and unintentionally cause for them to stumble, that they will incur His displeasure, and worse, reap dire consequences.

In what ways have we been guilty of not protecting the most vulnerable from stumbling?

Are there “little ones” in your sphere of influence right now? In what ways can we help them to be steadfast in their faith?

Have you taken on the responsibility of discussing God’s design for sex with your children? If yes, what were some questions that you encountered and how did you navigate them?

If not, what may be preventing you from doing so? How can you overcome it?