

A "Little" Stumbling is a Big Problem
Sermon Based Discussion (June 16, 2013)
Sermon Series: Just a "Little"

WARM UP

1. What are some ways Christians positively influence one another in spiritual growth? What are some ways Christians could negatively influence one another?

No matter your spiritual background, chances are you have seen Christians who make positive contributions to others' spiritual lives, as well as seen Christians hinder the spiritual growth of others. In this session, we continue our "Little" series in Matthew 18. Last time, Jesus taught about achieving greatness by becoming little, like a small child. In this session, we learn how someone might hurt the faith of such a little one, and what to do about that.

INTO THE BIBLE

(Read Matthew 18:5-9)

2. What does Jesus mean by it's better to drown a horrible death than cause someone to stray spiritually?

3. What does Jesus mean by telling his followers to cut off/tear and throwing away a body part that causes you to sin?

UNDERSTANDING

4. What does our own sin have to do with causing others to be tempted? (In other words, why does Jesus tell us to not cause others to stumble by telling us to deal with our own sin?)

DIFFERENCE

5. Have you seen your struggles with sin affect others? Can you share an example?

6. What is a part of your life (your "hand", "foot", or "eye") that is a great source of temptation for you?

APPLICATION

7. What are some severe and/or creative steps Christians have taken in their fight against temptation?

8. What are some "extreme" steps you could take to address temptations you may not have fully dealt with?

FOR REFLECTION

"See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels always see the face of my Father who is in heaven."

(Matthew 18:10, ESV)