



FAITH COMMUNITY CHURCH SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE



DATE: December 7, 2025
SPEAKER: Patrick Mostek

TITLE: The Shepherd's Love
SCRIPTURE: Matthew 18:10-20

OPENING PRAYER

ICE BREAKER: SHARE ONE OF YOUR FAVORITE EXPERIENCES OF THE CHRISTMAS SEASON. WHY IS IT SO SPECIAL?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Read the scripture for today

1. Jesus is not infantilizing believers when he calls them "children." But what is the significance of Jesus referring to Christians as "little ones"?
2. How are Christians tempted to despise other believers?
3. Why does Jesus say we shouldn't despise other believers? What does that tell us?
4. What does the parable of the lost sheep teach you about the love of God?
5. Why do you think it is necessary to go to someone privately to address their sin?
6. Can you think of any time when we should not go privately to someone in sin? (Leader's Note: It's important that we draw a distinction between sin and sins that are crimes. Jesus is not prohibiting us from reporting a crime.)
7. What is Jesus talking about in verse 20? Based on the context, why do you think Jesus tells us he will be with us?

APPLICATION

1. What is your nagging unanswered question?
2. What did you want to hear that you didn't hear from the message?
3. How can we get to know God as He is and not in the limited way we do now?
4. Think about what most caught your attention in the text or discussion. Why is God catching your attention with this at this point in your life? What does God want you to know or do?
5. What's one thing from this text that you could say to a believer/unbeliever about who God is?

PRAYER

Ask people for specific prayer requests. Pray for needs and for applications of the text. Ask for volunteers who would like to pray for those people and requests.

SHEPHERDING

Check the roster and see who is not there. Does the group know why someone is not there? Are there needs that can be met by the group? Specific prayer requests? Ask for someone to reach out and say, "We missed you."

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE FOR DECEMBER:

Isaiah 46:4 - Even to your old age I am he, and to gray hairs I will carry you. I have made, and I will bear; I will carry and will save.

REMINDERS

Small Group Checklist

- We suggest you serve 1x every six weeks or so. Discuss ideas.
- Encourage people to invite friends or neighbors to your group!!
- Discuss childcare, if needed.
- Talk about any upcoming group meals or activities.

Go through the Announcements in the Bulletin together to see what is coming up at FCC and how you can get plugged in! Here are a couple of those things - all registrations can be found online! www.fccnr.org

-CHRISTMAS PROGRAM - DEC 14th

We are welcoming our FCC Children and Youth to participate in our annual Christmas Program! Please sign up online if you would like to participate! We invite everyone to join us on Sunday, Dec 14th at 5pm to come and watch!

-CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES - DEC 24th

Join us for our Candlelight Christmas Eve Services on Wednesday, December 24th at 3pm and 5pm!

-GIVING TREE

Stop by the giving tree in the foyer for opportunities to bless individuals near and far this holiday season!

-CONNECTION SUNDAY - CHRISTMAS BRUNCH! - DEC 21st

Join us between services for our Connection Sunday - Christmas Brunch! Want to help and bring a dish to share? Sign up the events tab of the website: www.fccnr.org/events

-CHRISTMAS CAROLING - DEC 21st

Join us in the evening of Dec 21st for a potluck soup dinner and caroling at the local care centers! Register online!