

GO DEEPER

use these questions for further study

Pray the Lord's Prayer together or individually to begin the time (Mtt 6:9-13).

Share with the Group

Why is correction so hard? (Hard to give and hard to receive)

Have you ever been corrected (on something big or small) in a way that was honoring, kind, and ultimately a blessing to you? Describe the experience.

Read Matthew 18:1-20

Consider the parable of the lost sheep. Who is the shepherd? Who is the sheep? What truths and main points does Jesus communicate through this parable?

Why does Jesus use a parable? Why does he use it right here?

Why is it significant that Jesus refers specifically to sins committed by "your brother"? Who is he referring to? How does that limit the application of 15-17? What does this mean for our standards for Christians vs non-Christians?

What steps does Jesus outline for addressing sin within the Church community?

Why does he create a slowly escalating structure?

What safeguards are built into this process?

How can this process be done to promote restoration instead of conflict?

Why is it important not to skip any steps?

What would a community look like that took this teaching seriously?

What's the connection between a community that cares for the vulnerable (vs 1-10) and a community that holds its own people to account (vs 15-17)?

What does it mean to bind and loose things? To whom is this power given? Why?

What is the role of prayer in all of this? Where do you see it in the passage?

How does Jesus' promise in vs 20 encourage us in the work of restoration?

Practice It!

How can you help First Cov as a community become a place of restoration for all who are part of this flock?

Is there anywhere in your life where you need to be more open to restoration?

How can you practice humility and become like a child here?

Close by reading **Psalm 130** as a prayer and praise

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