

STANDALONE SERMON GUIDE

2/2/2025 | Pastor Dana Williams

WARM UP QUESTION: Have you ever been out to dinner with friends when the discussion went sour and everyone felt awkward?

READ: Matthew 18:15

FOCUS: God created us to live in community, but sometimes being in close fellowship can stir up our sin nature.

OBSERVE:

- The hardest part of joining and staying in a Life Group is that we often hurt each other.
- Jesus instructs us on what to do when someone in our community or Life Group sins in such a way that hurts us. He tells us to seek out our brother, like a shepherd seeks a lost sheep.
- Jesus says we should show our brother his fault when we are alone. This dignifies the situation, and our brother. We should listen to each other so repentance, forgiveness and reconciliation can occur.

DISCUSS:

- What stood out to you, or what did the Holy Spirit bring to your attention?
- Have you been offended when in a group situation? How did you feel?
- Do you sense the Holy Spirit directing you to go to anyone to discuss hurt feelings or other offences so you two can be reconciled?

TAKE ACTION:

- Go to anyone who has offended you. Forgive them as Jesus has forgiven you. Be reconciled with them to begin a new relationship.
- Go to anyone whom you have sinned against, even in the tiniest way. Confess your offense and ask their forgiveness. Pray that God would grant you a new oneness in your relationship.

PRAY: *Jesus, You instructed Your disciples to go to a brother who has sinned against them. You specified that they should go when the two of them are alone, that they might be reconciled. Help us to take this command seriously in our families and Life Groups. Holy Spirit, work within us as we walk out our faith alongside each other. In Jesus' name, Amen!*