



Outward Group Discussion Guide

August 16, 2026

SUMMARY

Pastor Logan Graham preaches through 1 Timothy 5:17-25, framing the passage as a set of family rules for the body of believers. He challenges the cultural instinct toward self-protection and individualism, arguing that Scripture calls Christians into genuine, accountable community where conflict is addressed honestly, leaders are honored and evaluated carefully, and sin is confronted with both courage and love. The sermon draws a direct line between Paul's instructions to Timothy and the real-time challenges facing Outward Church Silverton, including the recent resignation of two elders. Ultimately, the sermon grounds the call to community in the example of Jesus, who entered fully into human mess and brokenness as the ultimate elder brother, making the family business of getting into one another's lives not only possible but necessary.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Paul describes a 'double honor' owed to elders who lead well, encompassing both respect and financial support -- in what ways might your church community be falling short of honoring those who labor in ministry, and what would it look like to change that?
2. The sermon identifies two dangerous ditches in handling accusations against leaders: prejudging and partiality -- which of these do you think is more tempting in your own community, and why?
3. Matthew 18 lays out a clear order of operations for confronting sin, beginning with going to a person alone -- what fears or assumptions most often prevent you from taking that first step, and how might those fears be rooted in self-protection rather than genuine love?
4. The pastor describes rebuke and correction as a spiritual discipline -- how does that framing challenge or expand your understanding of what it means to grow in faith alongside other believers?
5. Proverbs 12:1 says that whoever hates correction is foolish -- in what areas of your life have you

been resistant to correction, and what does that resistance reveal about what you truly value?

6. The sermon draws a distinction between treating a persistently unrepentant person as an outsider and casting them away entirely -- how does understanding that the goal is always restoration change the way you think about church discipline?
7. Paul warns Timothy not to be hasty in laying hands on leaders, connecting premature appointment to potential complicity in sin -- what does this suggest about the responsibility a congregation bears in how it raises up and affirms its leaders?
8. The pastor uses the image of 'mat carriers' from the story of the paralyzed man to describe people who carry us when we cannot carry ourselves -- do you have people in your life who have been given that explicit invitation, and if not, what is holding you back from extending it?
9. The sermon contrasts cultural values like 'stay in your lane' and 'mind your own business' with the biblical call to be deeply invested in one another's lives -- where do you see these cultural values

shaping the way your church community actually functions?

10. Hebrews 2:17 describes Jesus as a brother who entered fully into human mess and suffering in order to redeem it -- how does the incarnation serve as the ultimate model for the kind of relational accountability and involvement Paul calls the church to in 1 Timothy 5?