



Small Group Study Guide
SERMON: FAITH THAT FIGHTS...

Where Vultures Gather

January 18, 2026 | CrossPointe Church
Tracy "PT" Pounders, Pastor

INTRODUCTION

This sermon walks through Luke 17 and calls believers to a "Faith that Fights": facing temptation, practicing obedient faith (even if small), serving without entitlement, returning to worship with gratitude, and living ready for the coming Kingdom. PT emphasizes intentional discipleship (especially with children and new believers), humble service, obedience that precedes blessing, and a faith that results in transformed lives.

KEY SCRIPTURES

- Luke 17:1–2 — Temptation and influence: Temptations will come; severe warning against causing "little ones" (new believers/children) to stumble.
- Luke 17:5–6 — Increase our faith: Jesus' mustard-seed response—small faith, rightly placed and obeyed, accesses God's power.
- Luke 17:7–10 — The unworthy servant: True service is duty, not bargaining; humility and gratitude, not entitlement.
- Luke 17:11–19 — Ten lepers: Obedience leads to healing; only one returns to give thanks; faith that worships results in a changed heart as well as a healed body.
- Luke 17:20–37 — The coming of the Son of Man: The Kingdom is both among us and coming suddenly; readiness, repentance, and refusing to look back are required.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. PT said, *"Temptation is not sin. Temptation is the lure; sin is the choice."* How does that distinction change the way you respond when temptation comes?
2. PT said, *"What you wink at, others will walk into."* Where in your influence (family, workplace, ministry) might you be normalizing compromise, and what concrete correction will you make?
3. The apostles asked Jesus to, *"Increase our faith,"* and Jesus answered with the mustard seed. What small, specific act of obedience could you plant this week that trusts God rather than waiting for feelings?
4. The unworthy servant image removes entitlement: when have you served with an expectation of reward, and how would you reframe that service as duty and gratitude?
5. PT says, *"Serve when no one is watching."* What behind-the-scenes ministry could you join this month to practice humble service, and who will you tell as accountability?
6. From the ten lepers, only the Samaritan returned to give thanks. When have you been like the nine—received a blessing but not returned in worship—and what would "coming back" look like for you now?
7. PT says, *"Healing without worship is an incomplete cure."* How does gratitude transform your understanding of spiritual restoration and ongoing discipleship?

8. Jesus warns that normal life can lull us (Noah days, Sodom's routine) and we can be unprepared to see Jesus. What comfort, habit, or relationship are you tempted to look back toward, and what practical step will you take to let it go?
9. PT emphasizes readiness—"Not everyone will be saved." How should this urgency shape the way our group prays, lives, and shares the Gospel this week?

PT's BEST SERMON QUOTES

- *"Temptation is not a failure of your faith, but the battleground for it."*
- *"Normalizing compromise enlarges the path to sin and narrows the path to repentance. What you WINK at, others will WALK into."*
- *"Permissive Parenting hands the steering wheel to the devil and then wonders why the car runs over the cliff. To refuse to guide a child in the FAITH is not MERCY; it is neglect with ETERNAL consequence."*
- *"In this church, we will speak the truth in love and love the lost to repentance."*
- *"Serve even if no one is watching."*
- *"We are unworthy servants — God owes us nothing. Our service is a response, not currency for His favor."*

ACTION PROMPTS

- Choose one area where you may be "winking" at compromise; make one concrete corrective step and tell an accountability partner.
- Practice a mustard-seed step of obedience: take one small, specific action God is calling you to (forgiveness, giving, joining a ministry) and report back to the group next meeting.
- Serve quietly: sign up to help in a behind-the-scenes ministry (set-up, benevolence, hospitality) and serve without seeking recognition.
- Return to worship: if you've used God as an "emergency exit," commit to one act of public worship or testimony (attend Sunday service, share your story, be baptized if applicable).
- Encourage outreach: invite one person to CrossPointe Sunday service or to a small group meeting in the next two weeks.

CLOSING PRAYER

Lord Jesus, we thank You for the truth of Your Word in Luke 17. Forgive us for the times we treated Your mercy like an emergency exit, for the compromises we wink at, and for service done with expectation. Give us Faith that Fights: teach us to obey, to serve humbly, and to return to You in gratitude. Strengthen parents and leaders to disciple children and new believers. Make our group a place of accountability, worship, and readiness. Bless everyone who attends CrossPointe: deepen their faith, help them find small group community, and give them boldness to invite others to Sunday services. Fill us with Your Spirit, keep our hearts from looking back, and make our lives a testimony to Your mercy. In Jesus' name, amen.

**PLEASE TAKE A GROUP PICTURE AND TAG PT (Franklin Tracy Pounders)
and Tabatha Pankey ON FACEBOOK !!!**