DISCUSSION GUIDE || October 18–23, 2026

REFLECT

1. *What's something from this week that you're saying **"Thank you, God"** for?*

REMEMBER

- A parable is a disruptive story in which something ordinary is laid down (*balo* in Greek) next to (*para* in Greek) something else in order to challenge us to reimagine our thinking, prioritizing, or living.
- Matthew 24 and 25 contain a series of parables about Christ's return.
- Matthew 25.31-46 echoes the judgment scene in Daniel 7.
- At TNC we say that the love of God is working *in* you when the love of neighbor is flowing *out* of you.

READ **MATTHEW 25.31-46**

2. *What **word, phrase, or story element** stands out to you or surprises you the most from this dramatic parable?*

3. At first glance, someone might assume that the point of the parable is this: do good works and earn eternal life. *Is that what Jesus (or the rest of the New Testament teaching) is communicating here? If not, **what is it that makes the sheep "blessed" and "righteous"**?*
   How are these actions connected to our righteousness?

4. *What is the **big surprise** of the parable (on both sides)?*

5. Dorothy Day found this story to be a central text in her believing and behaving. She said that, "The mystery of the poor is this: That they are Jesus, and what you do for them you do for Him… The mystery of poverty is that by sharing in it, making ourselves poor in giving to others, we increase our knowledge of and belief in love."
   ***How does our generosity and solidarity with the least** "increase our knowledge of and belief in love?*

6. ***What are some "takeaways"** from this parable for our seeing, thinking, living, and loving?*

7. *What do we need to **pause and pray** for this week?*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- TRUNK OR TREAT (in lieu of our Worship Gathering) on **Saturday, 10/31 from 5–7**
- TNC'S 10th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION is **Saturday, 11/7**
- YOUTHSGIVING is after worship **Saturday, 11/7**
- HGM SCHOOL CLEAN UP **Sunday, 11/8 @ 1:30**