

## I. Check-In

- Check in. How is everyone doing? How have you been using your God-given talents to serve others?

## II. Scripture

At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you." He said to them, "Go and tell that fox for me, 'Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.' Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.'" **-Luke 13:31-25**

He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings, you will find refuge. **-Psalm 91:4**

As a mother comforts her child, so I will comfort you. **-Isaiah 66:13**



## V. Prayer Requests

Spend some time sharing prayer requests with each other. As the small group leader, we ask that you do two things:

1. write them down
2. ask someone to pray

## IV. Challenge

Explore the means of grace to deepen your connection with God.

## III. Discussion Questions

- Jesus describes himself as a mother hen gathering her chicks. What does this imagery reveal about the nature of God's love and care for us? How does this image challenge traditional images of strength and protection?
- In what ways do we resist God's love and care? Which of the reasons mentioned in the sermon—pain, misunderstanding, or fear—resonates most with you?
- Jesus offers us refuge, but he does not promise to take us out of the troubles of the world. How is Jesus a source of refuge even in the midst of life's struggles? Can you think of a time when you experienced his peace in the middle of hardship?
- The sermon emphasized the "means of grace" (worship, prayer, scripture, community, and serving). Have you ever experienced these practices becoming dry or routine? How can you approach them in a way that deepens your connection with God?

## Did You Know?

Julian of Norwich (1342–1416) was a Christian mystic and theologian who wrote extensively about God's love. In her book, *Revelations of Divine Love*, she described Jesus as a nurturing mother who provides shelter, guidance, and care for his children. She wrote: "As truly as God is our Father, so truly is he our Mother. In him we are endlessly kept and marvelously loved." Like Jesus' image of the mother hen, Julian saw God's love as both tender and protective. Her writings continue to inspire Christians to see the fullness of God's care.