

# Pastoral REFLECTIONS

May 24, 2026

## Love Beyond Comfort

Relationships can be difficult to the point that we do everything possible to avoid them. We often try to surround ourselves only with people we “click” with rather than engaging with those God places in our path. This may be what Christ meant when He said, “Love your neighbor as yourself” (Matthew 22:39). A neighbor is anyone in close proximity to us. In our culture, loving our neighbor often seems to mean loving only those with whom we naturally connect, because other relationships can bring pain and disappointment. Yet Christ teaches that God especially blesses us when we love through difficult circumstances (Matthew 5:43–48; Romans 12:9–21).

According to a forest folktale from Northern Canada, two porcupines huddled together to stay warm during the winter. Their quills pricked each other, so they moved apart. Before long, they began shivering from the cold and drew close again, only to wound one another once more.

The cycle repeated itself. They needed each other, yet they kept hurting each other. Relationships can be painful, but people survive better and grow stronger when pain drives them toward a deeper commitment to obey God (Ecclesiastes 4:9–12). As Scripture says, “By this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments... but whoever keeps His word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected” (1 John 2:3–6).

Two little teardrops floated down a river. One teardrop asked the other, “Who are you?” The second teardrop replied, “I’m from a woman who lost her lover. And you?” The first teardrop answered, “I’m from the woman who got him.” (Michael Green, Illustrations for Biblical Preaching)

In a Peanuts cartoon, Lucy says to Snoopy, “There are times when you really bug me, but I must admit there are also times when I feel like giving you a big hug.” Snoopy replies, “That’s the way I am ... huggable and buggable” (Robert L. Short, Parables of Peanuts).

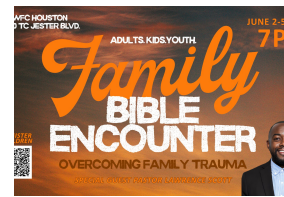
At times, Christ may seem “huggable” when He blesses us abundantly. Yet when He appears quiet or unresponsive to our concerns, He may seem “buggable,” especially when He commands us to “love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you... Treat others the same way you want them to treat you” (Luke 6:27–31). Christ teaches these things because He desires both to reward us and to strengthen us at the same time:



## UPCOMING Events



**MORE THAN US — NEW SERMON SERIES**  
Throughout this summer, Dr. Paul and Pierre Cannings will deep dive into what The Word of God says about family, relationships, and healing from heart and trauma caused by broken relationships.



**FAMILY BIBLE ENCOUNTER**  
Join us for FBE 2026, June 2-5 at 7PM for praise and worship followed by a message by our guest Pastor Lawrence Scott. We have something for the whole family, including children and youth. Parents, please register your children online! Dinner for children and youth will end promptly at 6:20pm.



**DEACON FELLOWSHIP & GRAD SUNDAY**  
Graduates wear your cap & gowns, Sunday May 31st to our ONE service at 9:30AM. All graduates are welcome to participate, high school, college, or grad school. Please submit your graduation photos online to be recognized throughout May.



**SINGLES MINISTRY COOKING CLASS**  
The Singles Ministry and the Urban Chef Experience is hosting a cooking class on May 30th. Please register to attend, payment is required when booking.



**ABC WORD ACADEMY SUMMER CAMP—**  
Summer Camp enrollment is now open! Register your student today by calling (281) 445-9673



## ORDER OF WORSHIP

Announcements

Song

Communion

Praise & Worship

Visitor’s Welcome

Worship In Giving

*Offering boxes are located at all perimeters under crosses*

Special Music

The Word of God  
“Less of Me”  
**Genesis 42:18-28, 30**  
Dr. Paul Cannings

*Sermon notes available online at [lwfellowshipchurch.org](http://lwfellowshipchurch.org)  
Under the “Resources” tab click “Sermon Outline”*

Call to Discipleship

*Please remain seated at this time*

Benediction & Closing Song

Children are now required to check-in upon arrival. Please report to the registration desk located in the children’s wing.  
**Infants—6th grade**

**MIDDLE SCHOOL - HIGH SCHOOL**  
**2:30 4:00 & TUESDAY NIGHTS**  
**SUNDAY 7:30 PM**

Less of Me  
Genesis 42:18-28, 30  
Dr. Paul Cannings

- A. Struggles to Strength (vs. 23-25):
- B. God is at Work (vs. 28, 30-37):

Scan To View Full Notes



A vibrant poster for a family Bible encounter. The background is light green with tropical foliage like palm leaves and a red hibiscus flower. The text reads: "Family Bible Encounter" in large, bold, green letters. Below that, "LWFC Houston 7350 TC JESTER BLVD." and "Please Register Children to Attend" in red. At the bottom, it says "June 2-5" and lists the schedule: "5:45pm-6:20pm Dinner Served", "6:30pm-6:45pm Devotionals", and "7:00pm-8:00pm Break-Out Sessions". There is a QR code and a small logo for "Rainforest Falls Exploring the Nature of God".

A poster for a family Bible encounter with a dark, textured background. The text reads: "LWFC HOUSTON 7350 TC JESTER BLVD." at the top left, "JUNE 2-5, 2026 7PM" at the top right, and "ADULTS, KIDS, YOUTH" in the middle. The main title is "Family BIBLE ENCOUNTER" in large, stylized orange and white letters. Below that, "OVERCOMING FAMILY TRAUMA" and "SPECIAL GUEST PASTOR LAWRENCE SCOTT" are written. A portrait of Pastor Lawrence Scott is on the right. A QR code and "REGISTER CHILDREN" text are on the left.

PRAYER REQUESTS

**Grieving:** Valarie Miller & family, Janice Bourne & family, Sheryl Crowe & family, the family of Charles Hobbly, and Al and Ruth Cranford & family.

**Health and Healing:** Lurlean Lane, Florence Wiggins, Retha Amos, Margaret Baptiste, Cici Sharpe, Eric White, Pat Crawford, Tanisha Collins, Jon Heard, Rutha Patrick, Kevin Carey, Sherri Love, Elizabeth Clarke, Clara Williams, Kathryn Ford-Cheatham, Beverly Austin, Joshua Williams, Ruby Hunter, Patsy Gatterson, Arleatha Housley, Patrina Johnson, Ruth Cranford, Walter Banks, Arnie Glover, Diana Doyle, Shannon Rice, Freddie Reid, Yolanda Barnes, Rochelle Carter Brown, Terrance Ford, Robert Edwards, Jessie Austin, Shinell Clark, Eugene Reese, Donna Ross, Sylvia Edwards, and Leo Banks.



LESS  
of ME

The Good & Bad Part 2