**Matthew 18**

Goals: 1)Practice a some of the principles of interpretation. 2) Identify and apply what Jesus reveals to us about discipline in the church.

Opening Question: What is discipline? Is it necessary why? How have you seen discipline in the church?

1. 18: 1-6 What is the question the disciples want to know? How does their thinking fit in the kingdom of this world? How does Jesus respond? What does He teach us about the kingdom of heaven?
2. 18: 7-9 The overall genre of the gospels is narrative. Within the gospel other genres or literary devices can be found (for example apocalyptic literature) Here Jesus uses the literary device of hyperbole (exaggeration). What is the point that Jesus is trying to communicate in these verses? What effect do His words have on His hearers?
3. 18: 7 Word study – Temptation (“scandalon”). We will use the concordance in the back and *Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance* to see what the word means. How does the words meaning help us understand what Jesus is saying in the text?
4. 18: 10-14 What is revealed to us regarding the will of God?
5. 18: 15-20 The church is wise to follow Jesus direction in dealing with sin of a Christian (“brother”). Obviously, not every case can be handled the same. What does Jesus show us are the basic principles of church discipline? What is the goal of church discipline?
6. 18:20 How does the context help us understand this oft quoted verse?
7. 18: 21-35 How is this parable reflected in the Lord’s Prayer? (See 6: 9-15)
8. Review “The Office of the Keys and Confession”. What connections do you see?
9. What is the application to us? What is it that we need to hear? Why?