



**Discipleship** **Ideas for the Iowa District West**

**Introduction**

The following “Discipleship Ideas” from the readings are not intended for any other purpose than to provide ideas of application from each reading that may be included in the taught and preached Word for this particular Sunday to help teach a life of discipleship. L.C.M.S. pastors are gifted at preaching Law and Gospel, but often lack in the matter of personal applications to the Word. This tool is for no other reason than to offer some seeds of thought to do that.

**NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST - SERIES B**  
October 4, 2015

**From C.P.H. About the Cover:** When asked about divorce, Jesus affirms the Creator’s design for one man and one woman to remain married for life. Christ opposes fickle relationships because of the permanence of God’s act in marriage: “They are no longer two but one flesh.” Christ joins husband and wife as one, making them a picture of His unwavering commitment to His Bride, the Church

**First Reading; Genesis 2:18–25**

<sup>18</sup>Then the LORD God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.” <sup>19</sup>So out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. <sup>20</sup>The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him. <sup>21</sup>So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. <sup>22</sup>And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. <sup>23</sup>Then the man said,

“This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh;  
she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.”

<sup>24</sup>Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. <sup>25</sup>And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

1<sup>st</sup> Reading Discipleship Notes: The institution of marriage is God's design and plan. Mankind tries to change it to suit the sinfulness of man's desire in any numbers of ways. But God's design is the just that, God's. By the grace He has given us, we can respect that design and rejoice in its purpose of partnership and procreation. In addition we can stand boldly and confess our disagreement with anything departing from God's design. God's grace is sufficient for us to do so and God's will is that we would do so. Furthermore as modern day disciples we are blessed by God's design even in the midst of the world's departure from it and we can celebrate that blessing before others in this world.

**Epistle Reading            Hebrews 2:1-13**

<sup>1</sup>Therefore we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it. <sup>2</sup>For since the message declared by angels proved to be reliable and every transgression or disobedience received a just retribution, <sup>3</sup>how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation? It was declared at first by the Lord, and it was attested to us by those who heard, <sup>4</sup>while God also bore witness by signs and wonders and various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will.

<sup>5</sup>Now it was not to angels that God subjected the world to come, of which we are speaking.

<sup>6</sup>It has been testified somewhere,

    “What is man, that you are mindful of him,  
    or the son of man, that you care for him?

<sup>7</sup>You made him for a little while lower than the angels;  
    you have crowned him with glory and honor,  
<sup>8</sup>putting everything in subjection under his feet.”

Now in putting everything in subjection to him, he left nothing outside his control. At present, we do not yet see everything in subjection to him. <sup>9</sup>But we see him who for a little while was made lower than the angels, namely Jesus, crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

<sup>10</sup>For it was fitting that he, for whom and by whom all things exist, in bringing many sons to glory, should make the founder of their salvation perfect through suffering. <sup>11</sup>For he who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one origin. That is why he is not ashamed to call them brothers, <sup>12</sup>saying,

    “I will tell of your name to my brothers;  
    in the midst of the congregation I will sing your praise.”

<sup>13</sup>And again,

    “I will put my trust in him.”

And again,

    “Behold, I and the children God has given me.”

Epistle Discipleship Notes: The writer of Hebrews focuses on a particular matter of importance in this reading which has to do with the relationship believers have with our Lord Jesus Christ. Because of His taking on human flesh and accomplishing our salvation for us, we are blessed to be His brothers through faith in Him. This is a relationship that is every bit as important to us as the marital relationship because it is every bit as personal. We are brothers to our Lord Jesus Christ and this kinship is something to celebrate. As modern day disciples we can do so by the grace of God.

**Gospel Reading: Mark 10:2-16**

<sup>2</sup> Pharisees came up and in order to test [Jesus] asked, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?"

<sup>3</sup>He answered them, "What did Moses command you?" <sup>4</sup>They said, "Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of divorce and to send her away." <sup>5</sup>And Jesus said to them, "Because of your hardness of heart he wrote you this commandment. <sup>6</sup>But from the beginning of creation, 'God made them male and female.' <sup>7</sup>Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, <sup>8</sup>and they shall become one flesh.' So they are no longer two but one flesh. <sup>9</sup>What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate."

<sup>10</sup>And in the house the disciples asked him again about this matter. <sup>11</sup>And he said to them, "Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her, <sup>12</sup>and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery."

<sup>13</sup>And they were bringing children to him that he might touch them, and the disciples rebuked them. <sup>14</sup>But when Jesus saw it, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the children come to me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God. <sup>15</sup>Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it." <sup>16</sup>And he took them in his arms and blessed them, laying his hands on them.

Gospel Discipleship Notes: In this Gospel reading we see once again the clarity of how marriage was established by God and how it is to be respected by man. We further see the blessing of children in the sight of God and how important they are in His kingdom. As a result, as disciples of the Living Lord, we can once stand strong in the grace of God and uphold and support the Biblical concept of marriage and rejoice in the blessing of children.

## Adult/High School Youth Discipleship Bible Study Outline

### Read Genesis 2:18–25

<sup>18</sup>Then the LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him." <sup>19</sup>So out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. <sup>20</sup>The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him. <sup>21</sup>So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. <sup>22</sup>And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. <sup>23</sup>Then the man said,

"This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh;  
she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man."

<sup>24</sup>Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. <sup>25</sup>And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

1. What was being established in this reading?
2. Why was it being established?
3. How do we see the goodness and mercy of God in this institution?
4. What is the meaning of the word, "woman"?
5. What was significant about the fact that "*the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed*"?
6. What application from this reading might you make for your life?

### Read Hebrews 2:1–13

<sup>1</sup>Therefore we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it. <sup>2</sup>For since the message declared by angels proved to be reliable and every transgression or disobedience received a just retribution, <sup>3</sup>how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation? It was declared at first by the Lord, and it was attested to us by those who heard, <sup>4</sup>while God also bore witness by signs and wonders and various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will.

<sup>5</sup>Now it was not to angels that God subjected the world to come, of which we are speaking.

<sup>6</sup>It has been testified somewhere,

"What is man, that you are mindful of him,  
or the son of man, that you care for him?"

<sup>7</sup>You made him for a little while lower than the angels;  
you have crowned him with glory and honor,

<sup>8</sup>putting everything in subjection under his feet.”

Now in putting everything in subjection to him, he left nothing outside his control. At present, we do not yet see everything in subjection to him. <sup>9</sup>But we see him who for a little while was made lower than the angels, namely Jesus, crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

<sup>10</sup>For it was fitting that he, for whom and by whom all things exist, in bringing many sons to glory, should make the founder of their salvation perfect through suffering. <sup>11</sup>For he who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one origin. That is why he is not ashamed to call them brothers, <sup>12</sup>saying,

“I will tell of your name to my brothers;  
in the midst of the congregation I will sing your praise.”

<sup>13</sup>And again,

“I will put my trust in him.”

And again,

“Behold, I and the children God has given me.”

7. What was meant by “*the message declared by angels*”?
8. Again in verses 5, 7 and 9 angels are mentioned. In what sense are they being identified in those verses?
9. Who is meant by “*the founder of their salvation*”?
10. How is it that all things are “*put in subjection to him*” (vr. 8)?
11. How might this reading encourage us to live more serious lives of discipleship with regard to our faith?

**READ: Mark 10:2–16**

<sup>2</sup> Pharisees came up and in order to test [Jesus] asked, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?”

<sup>3</sup>He answered them, “What did Moses command you?” <sup>4</sup>They said, “Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of divorce and to send her away.” <sup>5</sup>And Jesus said to them, “Because of your hardness of heart he wrote you this commandment. <sup>6</sup>But from the beginning of creation, ‘God made them male and female.’ <sup>7</sup>Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, <sup>8</sup>and they shall become one flesh.’ So they are no longer two but one flesh. <sup>9</sup>What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate.”

<sup>10</sup>And in the house the disciples asked him again about this matter. <sup>11</sup>And he said to them, “Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her, <sup>12</sup>and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery.”

<sup>13</sup>And they were bringing children to him that he might touch them, and the disciples rebuked them. <sup>14</sup>But when Jesus saw it, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the children come to me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God. <sup>15</sup>Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it." <sup>16</sup>And he took them in his arms and blessed them, laying his hands on them.

12. What was behind the Pharisee's initial question in this reading?
13. Who alone separates a marriage?
14. Is it possible to avoid the matter of adultery in divorce?
15. What was the point of bringing children into this discourse as Jesus did in verses 13-16?
16. What application of this Gospel reading will you apply to your life as a result of hearing it today?

## Adult/High School Youth Discipleship Bible Study Outline (Leader's Guide)

### Read Genesis 2:18–25

<sup>18</sup>Then the LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him." <sup>19</sup>So out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. <sup>20</sup>The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him. <sup>21</sup>So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. <sup>22</sup>And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. <sup>23</sup>Then the man said,

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<sup>24</sup>Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. <sup>25</sup>And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

1. What was being established in this reading?

*God's institution of marriage was being established. He designed it and He blessed it.*

2. Why was it being established?

*It was being established because it was not good that man should be alone. Interestingly, with each day of creation God saw what had been created and it was good. But it was not good for man to be alone.*

3. How do we see the goodness and mercy of God in this institution?

*In seeing something that was lacking for the benefit of humankind, God set into motion His plan for providing that which was lacking. He made the woman to fulfill the relationship need of the human He had first created. In doing so we see His goodness and mercy in action.*

4. What is the literal meaning of the word, "woman"?

*It means "out of man" or "from man".*

5. What was significant about the fact that "the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed"?

*There was no shame before the fall. This is a clear picture of the innocence and holiness that existed in humankind prior to the fall into sin.*

6. What application from this reading might you make for your life?

**Read: Hebrews 2:1–13**

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“Behold, I and the children God has given me.”

7. What was meant by, “*the message declared by angels*”?

*The angels were used by God in the giving of the Law and conveying it to Moses and the Israelites as we learn in Acts 7:38 and 53 and Galatians 3:19.*

8. Again in verses 5, 7 and 9 angels are mentioned. In what sense are they being identified in those verses?

*The writer is using the reference to the angels in the sense of proving the authority of Christ over the angels, which were creations of God while at the same time identifying that Christ took on human flesh to overcome sin and death in a form (human form) which is lower than the angels.*

9. Who is meant by “the founder of their salvation”?

*Christ himself is meant by this phrase.*

10. How is it that all things are “put in subjection to him” (vr. 8)?

*Even though He (Christ) appears in the form of man, He is God and all things, even the angels whom He created fall under His authority.*

11. How might this reading encourage us to live more serious lives of discipleship with regard to our faith?

**READ: Mark 10:2–16**

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12. What was behind the Pharisee’s initial question in this reading?

*They were likely attempting to trap Jesus in the battle that John the Baptist had taken with Herod and which got him beheaded. John had denounced the relationship of Herod and his brother’s wife. If Jesus also denounced divorce, the same might happen to Him, thus ridding Jesus from the crowds He seemed to gather.*

13. Who alone separates a marriage?

*Man alone separates marriage as a result of his/her sinful desires.*

14. Is it possible to avoid the matter of adultery in divorce?

*It is not possible if there is remarriage while the former partner is still living since only death (which comes about according to God's will) truly separates a couple. But even if one or the other partner does not remarry, that does not avoid the matter of adultery if there is any lustful desire for another partner in one's heart. (See Matthew 5:28)*

15. What was the point of bringing children into this discourse as Jesus did in verses 13-16?

*Jesus had just dealt with the relationship that is to exist between man and wife, and now He moves on to the relationship that exists between God and man via a child. God desires a closer interpersonal relationship with His creature as was the case from the beginning. That relationship, while certainly patterned for us in marriage (See Ephesians 5:21-31) is also patterned for us in the relationship that exists between adults and children. It is a loving and humble relationship of respect and trust.*

16. What application of this Gospel reading will you apply to your life as a result of hearing it today?

## **Discipleship Bulletin Blub**

What is your relationship with Christ like? Is it like that of a God-pleasing and God-designed marriage which is one of mutual love and respect? Or is it like that of man's design which is tainted by sin? God's desire for us is obviously the first option mentioned here and because of God's grace, our relationship to Him can be met with mutual love and respect. In evidencing that type of relationship, by the grace of God, the world can also catch that vision and possibly be drawn into this intimate relationship with Christ as well.

## **Discipleship Prayer Thought**

Heavenly Father, grant us Your grace to always know and show the relationship of love and respect for one another in marriage and also in our relationship with You through Your Son, Jesus Christ. Fill us with love for others as well that we might show evidence of our love for You in such a way that others might see that love and desire the same in their own lives. Lord in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**