



## 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.

### TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST - SERIES B

November 1, 2015

**From C.P.H. About the Cover:** *(The Bulletin Cover information pertains to the readings for All Saints Day and not the twenty-third Sunday After Pentecost. This issue of “Discipleship Helps” pertains to the readings for the twenty-third Sunday After Pentecost)*

#### **First Reading; Deuteronomy 6:1–9**

<sup>1</sup>“Now this is the commandment, the statutes and the just decrees that the LORD your God commanded me to teach you, that you may do them in the land to which you are going over, to possess it, <sup>2</sup>that you may fear the LORD your God, you and your son and your son’s son, by keeping all his statutes and his commandments, which I command you, all the days of your life, and that your days may be long. <sup>3</sup>Hear therefore, O Israel, and be careful to do them, that it may go well with you, and that you may multiply greatly, as the LORD, the God of your fathers, has promised you, in a land flowing with milk and honey.

<sup>4</sup>“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. <sup>5</sup>You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. <sup>6</sup>And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. <sup>7</sup>You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. <sup>8</sup>You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. <sup>9</sup>You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

1<sup>st</sup> Reading Discipleship Notes: Before assuming the land of promise, Moses reviews once again the matter of how the Israelites were to live in the new land and more importantly in their

relationship with God. They were to live according to the Laws of God and they were to teach God's will and ways to their children. The application for modern disciples of the Lord has not changed. We still are called to live according to the Law of God and to teach the will and the ways of God to our children. But this is not to happen merely in the Sunday School room led by a devoted Christian teacher. God's Word in this reading would have us do that teaching in the manners of our lives. It is to happen in the places we take our children, in the time we spend with our children and even in the art work we place on our walls. By God's grace we can do so and we can even encourage our children to show appropriate art work on their walls and make appropriate choices so as to make the will of God known to their friends also.

**Epistle Reading          Hebrews 9:11–14**

<sup>11</sup>But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) <sup>12</sup>he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption. <sup>13</sup>For if the sprinkling of defiled persons with the blood of goats and bulls and with the ashes of a heifer sanctifies for the purification of the flesh, <sup>14</sup>how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.

Epistle Discipleship Notes: The writer of Hebrews in this reading points to the sole way of salvation which is by way of Jesus, the high priest of the good things to come. The reading, however, fails to point to anything in particular to apply to our lives. Yet it is there! Christ's blood has purified our conscience from dead works to serve the living God. Because of His grace, we can do so. We don't have to live in the fear of our sins or the eternal punishment of death. We are purified of sin and we have been given God's grace to live in service of the living God. That happens in those things we do in our varied vocations and the manners in which we make the will of God known to others in the ways in which we live. Like the Old Testament Reading for today, we have can make the will of God known to the people around us in our conversation, our actions and our attitudes of love for God and one another.

**Gospel Reading:                  Mark 12:28–37**

<sup>28</sup>One of the scribes came up and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that [Jesus] answered them well, asked him, "Which commandment is the most important of all?" <sup>29</sup>Jesus answered, "The most important is, 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.' <sup>30</sup>And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' <sup>31</sup>The second is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these." <sup>32</sup>And the scribe said to him, "You are right, Teacher. You have truly said that he is one, and there is no other besides him." <sup>33</sup>And to love him with all the heart and with all the understanding and with all the strength, and to love one's neighbor as oneself, is much more than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices." <sup>34</sup>And when Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." And after that no one dared to ask him any more questions.

<sup>35</sup>And as Jesus taught in the temple, he said, "How can the scribes say that the Christ is the son of David? <sup>36</sup>David himself, in the Holy Spirit, declared,

"The Lord said to my Lord, Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies

under your feet.'

<sup>37</sup>David himself calls him Lord. So how is he his son?" And the great throng heard him gladly.

Gospel Discipleship Notes: Once again we seem to have a reading with a great deal of truth, but not much application, or so it seems! In reality, Jesus confirms the summary and truth of the Law, but He also confirmed something else which has to do with the relationship we have with the Lord which is not by way of the Law, but by way of the Gospel. Like the scribe in the reading, many think their relationship with God is solely by way of the manner in which they live their lives in love of God and others. But that love can exclude the confidence we have in God's gift of David's Son and Lord, our Savior Jesus Christ. It seems that the great throng that heard him gladly got the message of truth. By God's grace so can we and like the great throng we can hear His Word gladly and serve Him willingly. This application is often only assumed and not spoken. But by God's grace, we can speak words of encouragement to hear the Word gladly and willingly and to serve the Lord graciously because we know the Lord of David who has saved us.

## Adult/High School Youth Discipleship Bible Study Outline

### Read Deuteronomy 6:1–9

<sup>1</sup>“Now this is the commandment, the statutes and the just decrees that the LORD your God commanded me to teach you, that you may do them in the land to which you are going over, to possess it, <sup>2</sup>that you may fear the LORD your God, you and your son and your son’s son, by keeping all his statutes and his commandments, which I command you, all the days of your life, and that your days may be long. <sup>3</sup>Hear therefore, O Israel, and be careful to do them, that it may go well with you, and that you may multiply greatly, as the LORD, the God of your fathers, has promised you, in a land flowing with milk and honey.

<sup>4</sup>“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. <sup>5</sup>You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. <sup>6</sup>And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. <sup>7</sup>You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. <sup>8</sup>You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. <sup>9</sup>You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

1. What specifically were the commandment, statutes and just decrees that the Lord had commanded Moses to teach the Israelites?
2. What promises accompanied the willingness to do them?
3. What was verse four the equivalent of today in our spiritual lives today?
4. What is vital for the knowledge of God’s will and how is it taught according to these verses?
5. What application from this reading might you make for your life?

### Read Hebrews 9:11–14

<sup>11</sup>But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) <sup>12</sup>he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption. <sup>13</sup>For if the sprinkling of defiled persons with the blood of goats and bulls and with the ashes of a heifer sanctifies for the purification of the flesh, <sup>14</sup>how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.

6. What is meant by the “greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation)”?
7. What function of the priesthood is specifically noted in this reading that was fulfilled by the Lord Jesus?
8. Why is this function now completed for all time?

9. What is the benefit we receive as a result of this function?
10. How might this reading encourage us to live more serious lives of discipleship with regard to our faith?

**READ: Mark 12:28–37**

<sup>28</sup> One of the scribes came up and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that [Jesus] answered them well, asked him, “Which commandment is the most important of all?”

<sup>29</sup> Jesus answered, “The most important is, ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. <sup>30</sup> And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ <sup>31</sup> The second is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.” <sup>32</sup> And the scribe said to him, “You are right, Teacher. You have truly said that he is one, and there is no other besides him. <sup>33</sup> And to love him with all the heart and with all the understanding and with all the strength, and to love one’s neighbor as oneself, is much more than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.” <sup>34</sup> And when Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, “You are not far from the kingdom of God.” And after that no one dared to ask him any more questions.

<sup>35</sup> And as Jesus taught in the temple, he said, “How can the scribes say that the Christ is the son of David? <sup>36</sup> David himself, in the Holy Spirit, declared,

“‘The Lord said to my Lord, Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet.’

<sup>37</sup> David himself calls him Lord. So how is he his son?” And the great throng heard him gladly.

11. Who were debating and about what?
12. Why was the scribe not far from the kingdom?
13. What does our Savior’s reference to David by the Holy Spirit declared something tell us about that which David wrote?
14. What does the great throng hearing the word of Jesus gladly suggest to us today?
15. 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 Deuteronomy 6:1-9

<sup>1</sup>“Now this is the commandment, the statutes and the just decrees that the LORD your God commanded me to teach you, that you may do them in the land to which you are going over, to possess it, <sup>2</sup>that you may fear the LORD your God, you and your son and your son’s son, by keeping all his statutes and his commandments, which I command you, all the days of your life, and that your days may be long. <sup>3</sup>Hear therefore, O Israel, and be careful to do them, that it may go well with you, and that you may multiply greatly, as the LORD, the God of your fathers, has promised you, in a land flowing with milk and honey.

<sup>4</sup>“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. <sup>5</sup>You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. <sup>6</sup>And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. <sup>7</sup>You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. <sup>8</sup>You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. <sup>9</sup>You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

1. What specifically were the commandment, statutes and just decrees that the Lord had commanded Moses to teach the Israelites?

*In the previous chapter, Moses had recalled the Ten Commandments. It is to them that he was making reference in this reading.*

2. What promises accompanied the willingness to do them?

*The promise is “that it may go well with you, and that you may multiply greatly, as the LORD”*

3. What was verse four the equivalent of today in our spiritual lives today?

*This was an Old Testament Creedal statement equivalent to the creeds we have and use to confess our faith.*

4. What is vital for the knowledge of God’s will and how is it taught according to these verses?

*Teaching these basic truths to the next generations continuing to make known the truths of God.*

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

### Read: Hebrews 9:11-14

<sup>11</sup>But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) <sup>12</sup>he entered once

for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption. <sup>13</sup>For if the sprinkling of defiled persons with the blood of goats and bulls and with the ashes of a heifer sanctifies for the purification of the flesh, <sup>14</sup>how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.

6. What is meant by the “greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation)”?

*This is a reference to the second person of the Holy Trinity - Christ Jesus.*

7. What function of the priesthood is specifically noted in this reading that was fulfilled by the Lord Jesus?

*That of making sacrifice for the people.*

8. Why is this function now completed for all time?

*Because this final and complete sacrifice was undefiled by sin – it was a holy sacrifice. All other sacrifices pointed to this one.*

9. What is the benefit we receive as a result of this function?

*The purifying of our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.*

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

**READ: Mark 12:28–37**

<sup>28</sup> One of the scribes came up and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that [Jesus] answered them well, asked him, “Which commandment is the most important of all?”

<sup>29</sup> Jesus answered, “The most important is, ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. <sup>30</sup> And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ <sup>31</sup> The second is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.” <sup>32</sup> And the scribe said to him, “You are right, Teacher. You have truly said that he is one, and there is no other besides him. <sup>33</sup> And to love him with all the heart and with all the understanding and with all the strength, and to love one’s neighbor as oneself, is much more than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.” <sup>34</sup> And when Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, “You are not far from the kingdom of God.” And after that no one dared to ask him any more questions.

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“‘The Lord said to my Lord, Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet.’

<sup>37</sup> David himself calls him Lord. So how is he his son?” And the great throng heard him gladly.

11. Who were debating and about what?

*The Sadducees and they were debating about the resurrection and marriage in the resurrection.*

12. Why was the scribe not far from the kingdom?

*He had understood that the keeping of the law and the knowledge of the true God were more significant than all the sacrifices made man. He was close to the kingdom, but what he lacked was the recognition that Jesus is the fulfillment of the law and the true God who is the sacrifice for our salvation.*

13. What does our Savior's reference to David by the Holy Spirit declared something tell us about that which David wrote?

*His reference to the Holy Spirit's work in David's recorded words reaffirms our teaching that all Scripture is inspired by God. "Verbal Inspiration"*

14. What does the great throng hearing the word of Jesus gladly suggest to us today?

*That as we hear the same Word today, we also can gladly hear it and learn it as Martin Luther encourages us to do in the third commandment.*

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

## **Discipleship Bulletin Blub**

The hearing and doing of God's Law is indeed important. It is a proper reflection of God's will for mankind but also an expression of our love for God and our love for our fellow man.

Unfortunately no one is capable of fulfilling the Law of God with Holy Perfection other than our Lord Jesus Christ who became not only the great High Priest, but also the fulfilling sacrifice for the sins of the world. How blessed are they who hear and learn this great truth and who gladly and willingly live according to it. Such is the picture of our Lord's disciples in this modern age.

## **Discipleship Prayer Thought**

Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, have mercy on us. Fill us with not only a knowledge of Your will for our lives as given to us in the Law or God, but fill us also with a joyful willingness to hear Your Word of love and forgiveness for us spoken. Grant us faith, by the power of the Holy Spirit, to believe the Gospel and to respond in joyous faith and service. Lord in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**