



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.

THE SUNDAY OF PASSION - SERIES C
March 20, 2016

From C.P.H. About the Cover: Through faith, we know and worship Jesus as our King—not an earthly king, but our heavenly King. He is our King who has fulfilled all of God’s promises for our salvation; He provides all that we need for our life on earth and our life with Him in heaven for eternity. Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna!

First Reading; Deuteronomy 32:36–39

³⁶ The LORD will vindicate his people and have compassion on his servants,
when he sees that their power is gone and there is none remaining, bond or free.
³⁷ Then he will say, “Where are their gods, the rock in which they took refuge,
³⁸ who ate the fat of their sacrifices and drank the wine of their drink offering?
Let them rise up and help you; let them be your protection!”
³⁹ “See now that I, even I, am he, and there is no god beside me;
I kill and I make alive; I wound and I heal;
and there is none that can deliver out of my hand.”

1st Reading Discipleship Notes: God promised to vindicate His people and have compassion on them. This is certainly shown in the passion and death of His Son and our Savior. The application of this text lies in the recognition of our miserable condition. Our power is gone and our godlessness prohibits us from living eternally with God. This recognition of our condition is

critical to our salvation. God looks on those whom He loves and offers compassion and forgiveness. But to those whose hearts are far from being contrite or longing for mercy, there is no hope because their gods are worthless and unable to accomplish anything in their behalf. This is Passion Sunday and therefore the concern is one of recognizing God's total and unselfish attitude of love to save us.

Epistle Reading Philippians 2:5–11

⁵Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. ⁹Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Epistle Discipleship Notes: Paul points to the fact that Christ humbled Himself and became obedient to His heavenly Father for us. The response to the passion of our Savior for our salvation lies in our willingness to humble ourselves in faith and obedience as well. As Christian disciples we do confess Jesus as Lord to the glory of God the Father and that is modeled in willing obedience and verbal confession of our confidence in Christ Jesus' atoning sacrifice for our sins.

Gospel Reading: Luke 22:1—23:56

Gospel Discipleship Notes: Because of the length of this reading it is not printed and notes are not provided either.

Adult/High School Youth Discipleship Bible Study Outline

Read Deuteronomy 32:36–39

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³⁷Then he will say, "Where are their gods, the rock in which they took refuge, ³⁸who ate the fat of their sacrifices and drank the wine of their drink offering? Let them rise up and help you; let them be your protection!"

³⁹"See now that I, even I, am he, and there is no god beside me; I kill and I make alive; I wound and I heal; and there is none that can deliver out of my hand."

1. What does it mean for God to "vindicate" his people?
2. How are his peoples' power gone?
3. What gods have his people taken refuge in and offer sacrifice to throughout the ages?
4. What does it mean for the believer that "none can deliver out of my hand?"
5. What application from this reading might you make for your life?

Read Philippians 2:5–11

⁵Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. ⁹Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

6. What is meant by Christ having "humbled" himself?
7. How did Christ become a servant and for who was he a servant?
8. What is the name bestowed that is above every name and what does it mean?
9. What do verses 10 and 11 say about the power of Jesus' name even in this modern age?
10. How might this reading encourage us to live more serious lives of discipleship with regard to our faith?

Read **Luke 22:1—23:56**

11. 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 32:36–39

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when he sees that their power is gone and there is none remaining, bond or free.

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and there is none that can deliver out of my hand."

1. What does it mean for God to "vindicate" his people?

The meaning of this phrase is that God will free his people from all blame and offer liberty in justice to his people.

2. How are his peoples' power gone?

The power of God's people is gone when they recognize their sinfulness before the throne of God and acknowledge their sinfulness in such a way as to realize their salvation completely depends on the vindication of God.

3. What gods have his people taken refuge in and offer sacrifice to throughout the ages?

Answers will vary.

4. What does it mean for the believer that "none can deliver out of my hand?"

The enemies of God's people including Satan himself, are powerless to take a believer in Christ away from God. His power is supreme and when someone belongs to God through repentance and faith, God confirms that person in His eternal protection and salvation.

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

Read: Philippians 2:5–11

⁵ Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷ but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. ⁹ Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

6. What is meant by Christ having “humbled” himself?

In taking on human flesh and becoming obedient to the heavenly Father, Christ became something far less than He had been throughout eternity. In this way he humbled himself and thus became the substitutionary sacrifice for our salvation.

7. How did Christ become a servant and for who was he a servant?

This was voluntary; he was not obliged or forced to be in the form of a servant; he appeared as one in human nature, and was really such; a servant to his Father, who chose, called, sent, upheld, and regarded him as a servant. But he was also a servant to his people, and ministered to men.

8. What is the name bestowed that is above every name and what does it mean?

The name is “Lord Jesus Christ”. As “Lord” he is God. Jesus is higher than the angels and above all else. The name “Jesus” means the one who saves. “Christ” means the anointed one. Together, these names are not only above all others but exhibit power over all things.

9. What do verses 10 and 11 say about the power of Jesus’ name even in this modern age?

The name of Jesus possesses such power that it saves people in this life and condemns those who do not believe in Him. Ultimately there will come a day of judgment in which those who possess faith in the Lord Jesus Christ will inherit the kingdom prepared for them and those who do not will certainly fall down before the throne of God and confess Jesus as Lord, but it will be too late. The power of Jesus’ name saves or condemns in this life depending on whether there is faith in Christ’s substitutionary atonement or not.

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

READ: Luke 22:1—23:56

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

Discipleship Bulletin Blub

Entering into the holy week of our Savior's passion, suffering and death, we realize the tremendous love and compassion God has for His creation that He would send His only begotten Son to become the suffering servant to take away our sin. As modern disciples of Christ, we have a tremendous responsibility to humble ourselves in repentance and faith, confessing Jesus as Lord and gladly and willingly wish to serve and obey Him.

Discipleship Prayer Thought

Almighty God, Your love for us caused You to send Your only begotten Son into this world, to humble Himself and become obedient unto death on the cross. As Your Son He served You and as our Savior He has served us. Grant us grace so to honor the name of Jesus with our lives and to confess Him as Lord with our lives. Lord in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**