



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.

HOLY TRINITY SUNDAY - SERIES C

May 22, 2016

From C.P.H. About the Cover: Holy! Holy! Holy! We have an awesome God! Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, three persons in one true God. We praise our God for all the wonderful blessings He gives. While we don’t fully understand the Trinity, we praise the Trinity in Unity and the Unity in Trinity. We begin each day in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

First Reading; Proverbs 8:1–4, 22–31

¹Does not wisdom call? Does not understanding raise her voice?

²On the heights beside the way, at the crossroads she takes her stand;

³beside the gates in front of the town, at the entrance of the portals she cries aloud:

⁴“To you, O men, I call, and my cry is to the children of man.

²²“The LORD possessed me at the beginning of his work, the first of his acts of old.

²³Ages ago I was set up, at the first, before the beginning of the earth.

²⁴When there were no depths I was brought forth, when there were no springs abounding with water.

²⁵Before the mountains had been shaped, before the hills, I was brought forth,

²⁶before he had made the earth with its fields, or the first of the dust of the world.

²⁷When he established the heavens, I was there; when he drew a circle on the face of the deep,

²⁸when he made firm the skies above, when he established the fountains of the deep,

²⁹when he assigned to the sea its limit, so that the waters might not transgress his command, when he marked out the foundations of the earth,

³⁰then I was beside him, like a master workman, and I was daily his delight, rejoicing before him always,

³¹rejoicing in his inhabited world and delighting in the children of man.”

1st Reading Discipleship Notes: Matthew Henry writes of this reading, “The Son of God declares himself to have been engaged in the creation of the world. How able, how fit is the Son of God to be the Savior of the world, who was the Creator of it! The Son of God was ordained, before the world, to that great work. Does he delight in saving wretched sinners, and shall not we delight in his salvation?” The answer is certainly “Yes!” This ought also to be our response. Because of the salvation that has been given to us, we can by God’s grace offer the gift of life and salvation to others. This is a wonderful mission text which is a major theme of Trinity Sunday.

Epistle Reading Acts 2:14a, 22–36

¹⁴But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them, “Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give ear to my words.

²²“Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know— ²³this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. ²⁴God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it. ²⁵For David says concerning him,

“I saw the Lord always before me,
for he is at my right hand that I may not be shaken;
²⁶therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced;
my flesh also will dwell in hope.
²⁷For you will not abandon my soul to Hades,
or let your Holy One see corruption.
²⁸You have made known to me the paths of life;
you will make me full of gladness with your presence.’

²⁹“Brothers, I may say to you with confidence about the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. ³⁰Being therefore a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would set one of his descendants on his throne, ³¹he foresaw and spoke about the resurrection of the Christ, that he was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh see corruption. ³²This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses. ³³Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing. ³⁴For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he himself says,

“The Lord said to my Lord,
Sit at my right hand,
³⁵until I make your enemies your footstool.’

³⁶Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified."

Epistle Discipleship Notes: In this wonderful Pentecost sermon of St. Peter, we hear the clear law of God convicting the hearers of murder and the glorious Gospel of resurrection and eternal life in the name of Jesus who is both Lord and Christ. But there is more! Because of this great act of salvation for this fallen world, we see Peter empowered by the Holy Spirit to boldly testify to the truth of God's salvation. He taught his hearers the truth of the Word of God as evidenced in the words of King David and witnessed before the hearers concerning the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Because of the glorious Gospel, as modern day disciples, we can do no less for we, too, have seen and heard the Good News of the Gospel and as we recalled last week, we, too, have receive the Holy Spirit of God.

Gospel Reading: John 8:48-59

⁴⁸The Jews answered him, "Are we not right in saying that you are a Samaritan and have a demon?" ⁴⁹Jesus answered, "I do not have a demon, but I honor my Father, and you dishonor me. ⁵⁰Yet I do not seek my own glory; there is One who seeks it, and he is the judge. ⁵¹Truly, truly, I say to you, if anyone keeps my word, he will never see death." ⁵²The Jews said to him, "Now we know that you have a demon! Abraham died, as did the prophets, yet you say, 'If anyone keeps my word, he will never taste death.' ⁵³Are you greater than our father Abraham, who died? And the prophets died! Who do you make yourself out to be?" ⁵⁴Jesus answered, "If I glorify myself, my glory is nothing. It is my Father who glorifies me, of whom you say, 'He is our God.' ⁵⁵But you have not known him. I know him. If I were to say that I do not know him, I would be a liar like you, but I do know him and I keep his word. ⁵⁶Your father Abraham rejoiced that he would see my day. He saw it and was glad." ⁵⁷So the Jews said to him, "You are not yet fifty years old, and have you seen Abraham?" ⁵⁸Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am." ⁵⁹So they picked up stones to throw at him, but Jesus hid himself and went out of the temple.

Gospel Discipleship Notes: Jesus contended for the truth that to know him was to know God. As Abraham rejoiced to see the day of the Lord when the Savior would come and rescue sinful mankind, so we can rejoice that we have seen that day and we can look forward to the day of full and complete rescue and fellowship with God in heaven where because of Jesus we will rejoice for an eternity. It is this great truth and celebration we observe on Trinity Sunday and this great ministry we have before us as modern disciples of our Lord.

Adult/High School Youth Discipleship Bible Study Outline

Read Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31

¹Does not wisdom call? Does not understanding raise her voice?

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²²"The LORD possessed me at the beginning of his work, the first of his acts of old.

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²⁴When there were no depths I was brought forth, when there were no springs abounding with water.

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³⁰then I was beside him, like a master workman, and I was daily his delight, rejoicing before him always,

³¹rejoicing in his inhabited world and delighting in the children of man."

1. Where is it that wisdom calls and understanding raises its voice?
2. Who is doing the calling in verse 4?
3. Of whom are verses 22-31 making reference?
4. How was the master workman rejoicing in the inhabited world and delighting in the children of man?
5. What application from this reading might you make for your life?

Read Acts 2:14a, 22-36

¹⁴But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them, "Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give ear to my words.

²²"Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know—²³this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. ²⁴God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it. ²⁵For David says concerning him,

"I saw the Lord always before me,
for he is at my right hand that I may not be shaken;
²⁶therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced;
my flesh also will dwell in hope.
²⁷For you will not abandon my soul to Hades,
or let your Holy One see corruption.
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you will make me full of gladness with your presence.'

²⁹"Brothers, I may say to you with confidence about the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. ³⁰Being therefore a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would set one of his descendants on his throne, ³¹he foresaw and spoke about the resurrection of the Christ, that he was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh see corruption. ³²This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses. ³³Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing. ³⁴For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he himself says,

"The Lord said to my Lord,
Sit at my right hand,
³⁵until I make your enemies your footstool.'

³⁶Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified."

6. This is part of Peter's Pentecost sermon. What was the central message of this sermon?
7. What was the Law that he spoke condemning the sinfulness of the hearers?
8. What was the Gospel message Peter proclaimed in this sermon?
9. Why did Peter quote David's words?
10. What was the result of our Savior's resurrection from the dead according to verse 32?
11. How might this reading encourage us to live more serious lives of discipleship with regard to our faith?

Read: John 8:48-59

⁴⁸The Jews answered him, "Are we not right in saying that you are a Samaritan and have a demon?" ⁴⁹Jesus answered, "I do not have a demon, but I honor my Father, and you dishonor me. ⁵⁰Yet I do not seek my own glory; there is One who seeks it, and he is the judge. ⁵¹Truly, truly, I say to you, if anyone keeps my word, he will never see death." ⁵²The Jews said to him,

"Now we know that you have a demon! Abraham died, as did the prophets, yet you say, 'If anyone keeps my word, he will never taste death.'⁵³ Are you greater than our father Abraham, who died? And the prophets died! Who do you make yourself out to be?"⁵⁴ Jesus answered, "If I glorify myself, my glory is nothing. It is my Father who glorifies me, of whom you say, 'He is our God.'⁵⁵ But you have not known him. I know him. If I were to say that I do not know him, I would be a liar like you, but I do know him and I keep his word.⁵⁶ Your father Abraham rejoiced that he would see my day. He saw it and was glad."⁵⁷ So the Jews said to him, "You are not yet fifty years old, and have you seen Abraham?"⁵⁸ Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am."⁵⁹ So they picked up stones to throw at him, but Jesus hid himself and went out of the temple.

12. In saying that Jesus a Samaritan or possessed a demon, what were the Jews implying?
13. What did Jesus mean by never tasting death in verse 51?
14. What did Jesus mean by Abraham rejoicing about seeing this day?
15. What was important and sounded blasphemous about Jesus' words of verse 58?
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 Proverbs 8:1–4, 22–31

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³¹rejoicing in his inhabited world and delighting in the children of man."

1. Where is it that wisdom calls and understanding raises its voice?

It is found in the Word of God. The wisdom and will of God is made known clearly by Moses and the prophets. The chief difficulty is to get men to attend to instruction. Yet attention to the words of Christ, will guide the most ignorant into saving knowledge of the truth. Where there is an understanding heart, and willingness to receive the truth in love, wisdom is valued above everything else.

2. Who is doing the calling in verse 4?

This is none other than the second person of the Holy Trinity, namely the pre-incarnate Savior Jesus Christ.

3. Of whom are verses 22-31 making reference?

Once again this is the pre-incarnate Savior Jesus Christ

4. How was the master workman rejoicing in the inhabited world and delighting in the children of man?

He was rejoicing over the salvation that God was granting the children of man. Like Hebrews 12:2 states, Jesus saw the joy of our salvation and went to the cross to accommodate it for us.

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

Read: Acts 2:14a, 22–36

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6. This is part of Peter’s Pentecost sermon. What was the central message of this sermon?

Jesus.

7. What was the Law that he spoke condemning the sinfulness of the hearers?

Their guilt of murdering Jesus.

8. What was the Gospel message Peter proclaimed in this sermon?

The resurrection of Jesus and the fact that he is both Lord and Christ (the anointed one) to be the Savior of all mankind.

9. Why did Peter quote David's words?

To help the listeners identify with the sacred Scriptures the truth of who Jesus is and how even David as a prophet could identify with their testimony about Christ.

10. What was the result of our Savior's resurrection from the dead according to verse 32?

A willingness to witness Christ to others.

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

READ: John 8:48–59

⁴⁸The Jews answered him, "Are we not right in saying that you are a Samaritan and have a demon?" ⁴⁹Jesus answered, "I do not have a demon, but I honor my Father, and you dishonor me. ⁵⁰Yet I do not seek my own glory; there is One who seeks it, and he is the judge. ⁵¹Truly, truly, I say to you, if anyone keeps my word, he will never see death." ⁵²The Jews said to him, "Now we know that you have a demon! Abraham died, as did the prophets, yet you say, 'If anyone keeps my word, he will never taste death.'" ⁵³Are you greater than our father Abraham, who died? And the prophets died! Who do you make yourself out to be?" ⁵⁴Jesus answered, "If I glorify myself, my glory is nothing. It is my Father who glorifies me, of whom you say, 'He is our God.'" ⁵⁵But you have not known him. I know him. If I were to say that I do not know him, I would be a liar like you, but I do know him and I keep his word. ⁵⁶Your father Abraham rejoiced that he would see my day. He saw it and was glad." ⁵⁷So the Jews said to him, "You are not yet fifty years old, and have you seen Abraham?" ⁵⁸Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am." ⁵⁹So they picked up stones to throw at him, but Jesus hid himself and went out of the temple.

12. In saying that Jesus a Samaritan or possessed a demon, what were the Jews implying?

They were implying that Jesus was an enemy of the Jews and of God. This kind of language would have been considered a terrible insult and a demeaning statement.

13. What did Jesus mean by never tasting death in verse 51?

To see death, or to taste of death, is the same as to die eternally. The sense of this passage is, "He shall obtain eternal life, or he shall be raised up to that life where there shall be no death."

14. What did Jesus mean by Abraham rejoicing about seeing this day?

Abraham looked forward to the day of the God's redemptive promise being fulfilled. The Savior would come through His descendants. He longed for the salvations of our God and therefore he rejoiced in this day of Christ even though it was generations to come when he was living on earth.

15. What was important and sounded blasphemous about Jesus' words of verse 58?

Christ was here proclaiming that He is God and the phrase "I am" was also the very name of God that was given to Moses at the time of the burning bush experience when Moses asked who he should say had sent him. God replied, "I am" or "Yahweh" had sent him. Jesus was now calling Himself "Yahweh" or the "I am".

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

Discipleship Bulletin Blub

Wouldn't it be wonderful to see God and to fully understand His wisdom and to have the understanding of God? On the other hand, maybe it would be too terrifying for us. After all, we are sinners and God is Holy. Those two things can't stand together unless they are buffered by God's grace and compassion for sinful man which He has given to us through His Son. Now we can feel comfort and assurance that even in His holiness we can stand with God beside us. We can also make His love known to others who need that love like we do.

Discipleship Prayer Thought

Almighty God, by the power of the Holy Spirit, You grant us wisdom and understanding of Your Word that we might make known the truths of salvation in the name of Jesus, Your Son, our Lord. We worship You as the Holy Trinity and we honor You as the God of all truth and justice for all mankind of all ages past, present and future. Grant us the grace so to make You, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, known to the world around us that all may know the abundant nature of Your love. Lord in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**