



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.

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST - SERIES C

May 29, 2016

From C.P.H. About the Cover: “I am not worthy” is a beautiful yet humble phrase. The phrase is honest and truthful about us, and each of us would do well to remember it and to use it. When we remember that, due to our sin, we are no more worthy of Jesus than is anyone else, we realize how much we need Jesus and His love and forgiveness. Come, Lord Jesus!

First Reading; 1 Kings 8:22–24, 27–29, 41–43

²²Then Solomon stood before the altar of the LORD in the presence of all the assembly of Israel and spread out his hands toward heaven, ²³and said, “O LORD, God of Israel, there is no God like you, in heaven above or on earth beneath, keeping covenant and showing steadfast love to your servants who walk before you with all their heart, ²⁴who have kept with your servant David my father what you declared to him. You spoke with your mouth, and with your hand have fulfilled it this day.

²⁷“But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain you; how much less this house that I have built! ²⁸Yet have regard to the prayer of your servant and to his plea, O LORD my God, listening to the cry and to the prayer that your servant prays before you this day, ²⁹that your eyes may be open night and day toward this house, the place of which you have said, ‘My name shall be there,’ that you may listen to the prayer that your servant offers toward this place.

⁴¹“Likewise, when a foreigner, who is not of your people Israel, comes from a far country for your name’s sake ⁴²(for they shall hear of your great name and your mighty hand, and of your

outstretched arm), when he comes and prays toward this house, ⁴³hear in heaven your dwelling place and do according to all for which the foreigner calls to you, in order that all the peoples of the earth may know your name and fear you, as do your people Israel, and that they may know that this house that I have built is called by your name.”

1st Reading Discipleship Notes: Solomon’s Dedication Prayer of the temple which he had been privileged to build certainly points to a great deal more than a mere building. It points to God’s faithfulness in fulfilling His promises, Solomon’s own unworthiness to build such a structure knowing full well that God is so great it would not be reasonable to even suggest that this structure could house the living God, and of course Solomon’s personal concern that all the world would look at this structure (and more importantly the people of God) and desire to know God as who He is and what He has done and would do for His people. While we may not be building a structure to honor God, we are His living people in His kingdom who, by the grace of God, can be just as humble before God and just as desirous of the world knowing the name of God and His abundant mercy for sinful man.

Epistle Reading Galatians 1:1–12

¹Paul, an apostle—not from men nor through man, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised him from the dead— ²and all the brothers who are with me,
To the churches of Galatia:

³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, ⁴who gave himself for our sins to deliver us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, ⁵to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

⁶I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel— ⁷not that there is another one, but there are some who trouble you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. ⁸But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed. ⁹As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed.

¹⁰For am I now seeking the approval of man, or of God? Or am I trying to please man? If I were still trying to please man, I would not be a servant of Christ.

¹¹For I would have you know, brothers, that the gospel that was preached by me is not man’s gospel. ¹²For I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ.

Epistle Discipleship Notes: Paul reaffirms the necessity of Gospel preaching and truthful preaching because there are so many false teachings present in this world, even in the disguise of Christ’s name. Thanks be to God that we have the truth of His plan for salvation through the teaching of His Word and the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives. What a profound blessing has been given to us to also give to others. By God’s grace we can be servant of Christ and make known the revelation of our Savior’s name to the world around us.

Gospel Reading:**Luke 7:1–10**

¹After [Jesus] had finished all his sayings in the hearing of the people, he entered Capernaum. ²Now a centurion had a servant who was sick and at the point of death, who was highly valued by him. ³When the centurion heard about Jesus, he sent to him elders of the Jews, asking him to come and heal his servant. ⁴And when they came to Jesus, they pleaded with him earnestly, saying, "He is worthy to have you do this for him, ⁵for he loves our nation, and he is the one who built us our synagogue." ⁶And Jesus went with them. When he was not far from the house, the centurion sent friends, saying to him, "Lord, do not trouble yourself, for I am not worthy to have you come under my roof. ⁷Therefore I did not presume to come to you. But say the word, and let my servant be healed. ⁸For I too am a man set under authority, with soldiers under me: and I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes; and to another, 'Come,' and he comes; and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it." ⁹When Jesus heard these things, he marveled at him, and turning to the crowd that followed him, said, "I tell you, not even in Israel have I found such faith." ¹⁰And when those who had been sent returned to the house, they found the servant well.

Gospel Discipleship Notes: The elders of the Jews from Capernaum where the centurion lived considered him worthy of our Savior's coming to heal his servant. Ironically, the centurion did not consider himself worthy of our Savior's gift of grace. He had it right! None are worthy of the grace our Savior gives to us in the forgiveness of sins and the blessings of eternal life in his name. As modern disciples of the Savior, how vital it is that we take on the same posture of the centurion and make known to the world around us that none are worthy of God's grace. Because of that grace the humility we receive from the Holy Spirit can become an instrument of witness to others that they, too, might abound in God's grace in their own lives.

Adult/High School Youth Discipleship Bible Study Outline

Read 1 Kings 8:22–24, 27–29, 41–43

²²Then Solomon stood before the altar of the LORD in the presence of all the assembly of Israel and spread out his hands toward heaven, ²³and said, "O LORD, God of Israel, there is no God like you, in heaven above or on earth beneath, keeping covenant and showing steadfast love to your servants who walk before you with all their heart, ²⁴who have kept with your servant David my father what you declared to him. You spoke with your mouth, and with your hand have fulfilled it this day.

²⁷"But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain you; how much less this house that I have built! ²⁸Yet have regard to the prayer of your servant and to his plea, O LORD my God, listening to the cry and to the prayer that your servant prays before you this day, ²⁹that your eyes may be open night and day toward this house, the place of which you have said, 'My name shall be there,' that you may listen to the prayer that your servant offers toward this place.

⁴¹"Likewise, when a foreigner, who is not of your people Israel, comes from a far country for your name's sake ⁴²(for they shall hear of your great name and your mighty hand, and of your outstretched arm), when he comes and prays toward this house, ⁴³hear in heaven your dwelling place and do according to all for which the foreigner calls to you, in order that all the peoples of the earth may know your name and fear you, as do your people Israel, and that they may know that this house that I have built is called by your name."

1. What was the occasion of this prayer of Solomon?
2. What are some of the concerns of the prayer?
3. How is this pray like or unlike your own prayers?
4. What is meant by this house being called by God's name?
5. What application from this reading might you make for your life?

Read Galatians 1:1–12

¹Paul, an apostle—not from men nor through man, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised him from the dead— ²and all the brothers who are with me,

To the churches of Galatia:

³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, ⁴who gave himself for our sins to deliver us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, ⁵to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

⁶I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel— ⁷not that there is another one, but there are some who trouble you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. ⁸But even if we or an angel from heaven

should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed.
⁹As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed.

¹⁰For am I now seeking the approval of man, or of God? Or am I trying to please man? If I were still trying to please man, I would not be a servant of Christ.

¹¹For I would have you know, brothers, that the gospel that was preached by me is not man's gospel. ¹²For I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ.

6. Why is it significant that Paul addresses the Galatians in the authority of the risen Jesus Christ?
7. Often Paul speaks of grace and peace in the same sentence. Why are the two so essentially a part of each other?
8. We don't know that much about the other gospel that the Galatians were turning to but there are still other gospels to which people turn today. Can you identify any of them?
9. How did Paul speak of the true Gospel as not being that appealing to the world we live in?
10. How might this reading encourage us to live more serious lives of discipleship with regard to our faith?

Read: Luke 7:1–10

¹After [Jesus] had finished all his sayings in the hearing of the people, he entered Capernaum. ²Now a centurion had a servant who was sick and at the point of death, who was highly valued by him. ³When the centurion heard about Jesus, he sent to him elders of the Jews, asking him to come and heal his servant. ⁴And when they came to Jesus, they pleaded with him earnestly, saying, "He is worthy to have you do this for him, ⁵for he loves our nation, and he is the one who built us our synagogue." ⁶And Jesus went with them. When he was not far from the house, the centurion sent friends, saying to him, "Lord, do not trouble yourself, for I am not worthy to have you come under my roof. ⁷Therefore I did not presume to come to you. But say the word, and let my servant be healed. ⁸For I too am a man set under authority, with soldiers under me: and I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes; and to another, 'Come,' and he comes; and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it." ⁹When Jesus heard these things, he marveled at him, and turning to the crowd that followed him, said, "I tell you, not even in Israel have I found such faith." ¹⁰And when those who had been sent returned to the house, they found the servant well.

11. What can we glean about the character and faith of the centurion from this reading?
12. What was wrong about the Jewish elders' approach to Jesus concerning the centurion?
13. What was right about the centurion's personal attitude about himself?
14. What was it about the faith of the centurion that was so much different than the faith of those in Israel?
15. Christ didn't go to the servant to heal him or even go into the centurion's home. He healed the man from a distance. Does this have anything to say to us today?
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 1 Kings 8:22–24, 27–29, 41–43

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1. What was the occasion of this prayer of Solomon?

This was the occasion of the dedication of the temple built in Jerusalem under his direction.

2. What are some of the concerns of the prayer?
 - a. *Honoring God for His faithfulness - vr. 23*
 - b. *Recognizing that God is omnipresent and cannot be contained in an earthly dwelling – vr. 27*
 - c. *That God continues to hear and answer prayer – vr. 29*
 - d. *That God's name be hallowed by all the people of this world – vr 43*

3. How is this pray like or unlike your own prayers?

Answers will vary

4. What is meant by this house being called by God's name?

The substance of this temple is God in Christ. Whatever we ask in his name, it shall be given us. In this manner the Israel of God is established and sanctified, the lost is recovered and healed. In this manner the stranger is brought in, the mourner is comforted, the name of God is glorified. Sin is the cause of all our troubles; repentance and forgiveness lead to all human happiness in Jesus' name.

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

Read: Galatians 1:1–12

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6. Why is it significant that Paul addresses the Galatians in the authority of the risen Jesus Christ?

It is significant first of all to establish his apostleship and secondly to establish to authority and power of God in the reality of the resurrection of Christ. The power of the resurrection stands above all else.

7. Often Paul speaks of grace and peace in the same sentence. Why are the two so essentially a part of each other?

Apart from the grace of God there is no peace. Because of His grace we can have peace with God who by His grace has sent His Son to die for us and thus pay the full cost of all our sins and in the reality of that great truth, He gives us the peace of knowing the forgiveness of sins and the certainty of eternal life.

8. We don't know that much about the other gospel that the Galatians were turning to but there are still other gospels to which people turn today. Can you identify any of them?

Answers will vary but included in other gospels are things such as:

- a. "Social gospel" which is concerned merely with improving living conditions and economic conditions in society*
- b. "Moral freedom" concerned with matters such as equal rights for all aspects of society including LGBT, abortion rights, etc.*

9. How did Paul speak of the true Gospel as not being that appealing to the world we live in?

See specifically verses 10 and 11 for the answer.

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

READ: Luke 7:1–10

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11. What can we glean about the character and faith of the centurion from this reading?

His character was well appreciated by the residents and Jewish leaders of Capernaum and concern for the servant that he highly cherished. His faith rested on that which he had learned and heard about Jesus and the reality that as a sinner, he didn't deserve the grace of God which Jesus was able to offer him.

12. What was wrong about the Jewish elders' approach to Jesus concerning the centurion?

They considered the centurion worthy of Jesus' healing. There is no such thing as worthiness of God's grace. It is a gift of God not because anyone deserves it, but solely because God loves us and willingly and freely offers it to us.

13. What was right about the centurion's personal attitude about himself?

He refused to see anything worthy about himself to receive God's grace.

14. What was it about the faith of the centurion that was so much different than the faith of those in Israel?

He recognized his sinfulness and need of God's grace while the Jews of Israel looked to their own goodness to merit the love of God.

15. Christ didn't go to the servant to heal him or even go into the centurion's home. He healed the man from a distance. Does this have anything to say to us today?

It should say to us that God's grace and mercy for us comes to us even without our Savior's physical presence. It comes through His Word. Although He is physically present in the sacrament of His body and blood, His grace abounds even without that physical element as the Gospel is preached and proclaimed.

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

Discipleship Bulletin Blub

We have received the gift of the powerful Gospel which brings to us the blessing of eternal life in Jesus' name. That powerful name of Jesus is something that Solomon prayed for in the prayer of dedication of the temple he was privileged to have built in Jerusalem. He prayed that those who would look to the temple would know the name of God, no matter who they were. Jesus became that temple for us and now lives in us so that as people look to us, they see Jesus in our lives. As modern disciples of the Lord, that blessing of life is something we can share by God's grace.

Discipleship Prayer Thought

Almighty God, by the power of the Holy Spirit, You have given us grace and peace to make known Your love to all the world. Fill us with the mighty truth of Your powerful Gospel that our lives might constantly reflect the love You have for us in Your Son, Jesus Christ. Grant us Your grace so to make known that love not only to those immediately around us, but to those who are even far from us by the support of others who are carrying the Gospel to people in other places in the powerful name of Jesus. Lord in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**