



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.

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST - SERIES C
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From C.P.H. About the Cover: We live at such a fast pace that we often fail to see events and blessings that God uses for our benefit. In Jesus’ miracle, people were slowed so that they could experience a miracle and be enabled to see the Giver and His benefit. We, too, need to be aware and see God’s action in our lives. Then may we be moved to give glory and thanks as He visits us with His love.

First Reading; 1 Kings 17:17–24

¹⁷After this the son of the woman, the mistress of the house, became ill. And his illness was so severe that there was no breath left in him. ¹⁸And she said to Elijah, “What have you against me, O man of God? You have come to me to bring my sin to remembrance and to cause the death of my son!” ¹⁹And he said to her, “Give me your son.” And he took him from her arms and carried him up into the upper chamber where he lodged, and laid him on his own bed. ²⁰And he cried to the LORD, “O LORD my God, have you brought calamity even upon the widow with whom I sojourn, by killing her son?” ²¹Then he stretched himself upon the child three times and cried to the LORD, “O LORD my God, let this child’s life come into him again.” ²²And the LORD listened to the voice of Elijah. And the life of the child came into him again, and he revived. ²³And Elijah took the child and brought him down from the upper chamber into the house and delivered him to his mother. And Elijah said, “See, your son lives.” ²⁴And the woman said to Elijah, “Now I know that you are a man of God, and that the word of the LORD in your mouth is truth.”

1st Reading Discipleship Notes: Elijah's faith in the Lord was incredible. Without hesitation he turned to the Lord in earnest prayer in behalf of this widow's son. Three times he stretched himself on the boy crying out to the Lord for the child's restoration of life. That is a persistent faith and one which by the grace of God we can all practice as well. We may not have to cry out to God for a child's life, but we may need to cry out to God in behalf of the pastor who is overcome with what might seem like fruitless work; or the friend who lost a job; or the child who is living in a distressful situation. As modern disciples, we are not asked to be a prophet like Elijah, but people will know that we are people of God none the less by the persistent life of worship and prayer that we display.

Epistle Reading Galatians 1:11-24

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. ¹³For you have heard of my former life in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God violently and tried to destroy it. ¹⁴And I was advancing in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people, so extremely zealous was I for the traditions of my fathers. ¹⁵But when he who had set me apart before I was born, and who called me by his grace, ¹⁶was pleased to reveal his Son to me, in order that I might preach him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately consult with anyone; ¹⁷nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me, but I went away into Arabia, and returned again to Damascus.

¹⁸Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas and remained with him fifteen days. ¹⁹But I saw none of the other apostles except James the Lord's brother. ²⁰(In what I am writing to you, before God, I do not lie!) ²¹Then I went into the regions of Syria and Cilicia. ²²And I was still unknown in person to the churches of Judea that are in Christ. ²³They only were hearing it said, "He who used to persecute us is now preaching the faith he once tried to destroy." ²⁴And they glorified God because of me.

Epistle Discipleship Notes: Paul is not bragging about his life or about the fact that people had heard of him and glorified God because of him. The reality is that Paul was thankful that people like himself were coming to faith in Jesus Christ. What a lesson and application for us. We too should rejoice, just like the angels in heaven, over the sinner who repents and believes in the Savior Jesus Christ. A person's background doesn't matter. What does is faith in Christ Jesus and the salvation offered in His name. By God's grace we can rejoice with Paul in the salvation of souls. We can share gifts of thanksgiving for their salvation also.

Gospel Reading: Luke 7:11-17

¹¹Soon afterward [Jesus] went to a town called Nain, and his disciples and a great crowd went with him. ¹²As he drew near to the gate of the town, behold, a man who had died was being carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow, and a considerable crowd from the town was with her. ¹³And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her and said to her, "Do not weep." ¹⁴Then he came up and touched the bier, and the bearers stood still. And he said, "Young man, I say to you, arise." ¹⁵And the dead man sat up and began to speak,

and Jesus gave him to his mother. ¹⁶Fear seized them all, and they glorified God, saying, "A great prophet has arisen among us!" and "God has visited his people!" ¹⁷And this report about him spread through the whole of Judea and all the surrounding country.

Gospel Discipleship Notes: God has visited His people. He is among us because He is the Immanuel. Note that Jesus didn't wait to be asked to restore life to this widow's son. He went right up to the corpse and touched it (a terrible thing to do as a Jew because it was horribly unclean to touch a corpse). But the son lived and spoke and was given to his mother. The people spoke also. They spoke of Jesus, as so can we. We have been given the gift of God's grace to do so. We are the voice of the Gospel to the people we see and with whom we have a relationship. We can admit that God has visited His people and in doing so has also made it possible for all of us to experience salvation in Jesus' name.

Adult/High School Youth Discipleship Bible Study Outline

Read 1 Kings 17:17-24

¹⁷After this the son of the woman, the mistress of the house, became ill. And his illness was so severe that there was no breath left in him. ¹⁸And she said to Elijah, "What have you against me, O man of God? You have come to me to bring my sin to remembrance and to cause the death of my son!" ¹⁹And he said to her, "Give me your son." And he took him from her arms and carried him up into the upper chamber where he lodged, and laid him on his own bed. ²⁰And he cried to the LORD, "O LORD my God, have you brought calamity even upon the widow with whom I sojourn, by killing her son?" ²¹Then he stretched himself upon the child three times and cried to the LORD, "O LORD my God, let this child's life come into him again." ²²And the LORD listened to the voice of Elijah. And the life of the child came into him again, and he revived. ²³And Elijah took the child and brought him down from the upper chamber into the house and delivered him to his mother. And Elijah said, "See, your son lives." ²⁴And the woman said to Elijah, "Now I know that you are a man of God, and that the word of the LORD in your mouth is truth."

1. What two things are identified about a true prophet in this reading?
2. How is the death of this child a remembrance of sin for the boy's mother?
3. How is Elijah's prayer a true cry for mercy?
4. How is this account a type of messianic picture?
5. What application from this reading might you make for your life?

Read Galatians 1:11-24

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6. What is known about Paul's fast growth of power and prestige in Judaism?
7. What was significant about the fact that Paul did not seek the counsel of anyone in the leadership of the disciples immediately after his conversion?
8. We don't know that much about his time in Arabia, but what do you imagine happened there?
9. What response did Paul's reputation bring about and how is that expressed in this modern age?
10. How might this reading encourage us to live more serious lives of discipleship with regard to our faith?

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11. What two things about this account are a reflection of what took place in the Old Testament reading for today?
12. What is significant about the fact that Jesus raised this young man without being asked to raise to him from the dead?
13. What was significant about the fact that Jesus touched the bier?
14. What did the people's response to what happened express about their understanding of who Christ is?
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 1 Kings 17:17-24

¹⁷After this the son of the woman, the mistress of the house, became ill. And his illness was so severe that there was no breath left in him. ¹⁸And she said to Elijah, "What have you against me, O man of God? You have come to me to bring my sin to remembrance and to cause the death of my son!" ¹⁹And he said to her, "Give me your son." And he took him from her arms and carried him up into the upper chamber where he lodged, and laid him on his own bed. ²⁰And he cried to the LORD, "O LORD my God, have you brought calamity even upon the widow with whom I sojourn, by killing her son?" ²¹Then he stretched himself upon the child three times and cried to the LORD, "O LORD my God, let this child's life come into him again." ²²And the LORD listened to the voice of Elijah. And the life of the child came into him again, and he revived. ²³And Elijah took the child and brought him down from the upper chamber into the house and delivered him to his mother. And Elijah said, "See, your son lives." ²⁴And the woman said to Elijah, "Now I know that you are a man of God, and that the word of the LORD in your mouth is truth."

1. What two things are identified about a true prophet in this reading?

The ability to perform a miracle and the matter of speaking God's Word

2. How is the death of this child a remembrance of sin for the boy's mother?

Death is always a reminder of sin. Paul said that the "sting of death is sin and the strength of sin is the Law, but thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

3. How is Elijah's prayer a true cry for mercy?

Answers will vary but certainly his plea for the life of the child to come into him again was a cry for God's mercy and pity on this woman in the midst of her loss.

4. How is this account a type of messianic picture?

The messiah was to fulfill functions of a prophet, priest and king. In this account, Elijah functioned as a true prophet, but he did so in great compassion for this widow and for the loss she had experienced. In this way, it was truly a messianic picture of our Savior and His great compassion for sinful man.

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

Read: Galatians 1:11–24

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6. What is known about Paul's fast growth of power and prestige in Judaism?

From the Scripture we learn that he was taught under a most prestigious Pharisee by the name of Gamaliel meaning that he had been taught all the principles of Judaism as well as having been indoctrinated in the destruction of the teaching of Christ. He was also a Roman citizen by birth and therefore entitled to tremendous Roman educational experience which helped him in the ability to learn quickly and efficiently.

7. What was significant about the fact that Paul did not seek the counsel of anyone in the leadership of the disciples immediately after his conversion?

His conversion was solely by the grace of God and the revelation of Christ via the believers around him. Following that we know that Paul spent time alone, meaning that he was apart from the apostles, etc. and what little we know about this time can only lead us to realize that this was a period of time of reflection on the Word, and a time of spiritual awakening to the truth of the Gospel which came not via some great teacher like Gamaliel, but by Christ Himself.

8. We don't know that much about his time in Arabia, but what do you imagine happened there?

His time immediately following his conversion led him into the wilderness (Arabia) where Moses to Moses God revealed His Law, For Elijah where he was rescued from harm and for Jesus the devil's temptations were overcome dramatically. It seems that the wilderness was a place of revelation and growth for at least a few of the Biblical characters and obviously this was the case for Paul.

9. What response did Paul's reputation bring about and how is that expressed in this modern age?

People glorified God. Today that happens when people thank God for the ministries that take place among them.

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

READ: Luke 7:11–17

¹¹Soon afterward [Jesus] went to a town called Nain, and his disciples and a great crowd went with him. ²As he drew near to the gate of the town, behold, a man who had died was being carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow, and a considerable crowd from the town was with her. ¹³And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her and said to her, "Do not weep." ¹⁴Then he came up and touched the bier, and the bearers stood still. And he said, "Young man, I say to you, arise." ¹⁵And the dead man sat up and began to speak, and Jesus gave him to his mother. ¹⁶Fear seized them all, and they glorified God, saying, "A great prophet has arisen among us!" and "God has visited his people!" ¹⁷And this report about him spread through the whole of Judea and all the surrounding country.

12. What two things about this account are a reflection of what took place in the Old Testament reading for today?

The miracle of raising a son of a widow from the dead and the power of the Word coming from the mouth of a prophet (one prophet being a messianic figure and the other being the messiah himself).

13. What is significant about the fact that Jesus raised this young man without being asked to raise to him from the dead?

This is a clear picture of the compassion God has for His people that He would do this without even receiving a request to do so. God has mercy on us without our merit or worthiness and certainly even without our request to receive it.

14. What was significant about the fact that Jesus touched the bier?

This would have been forbidden of the Jews because the body was considered unclean. But it also is significant because even in this Christ was overcoming the sting of sin and the power of death.

15. What did the people's response to what happened express about their understanding of who Christ is?

Their response gave proof to the fact that they knew the messiah was to be a prophet and one whose word was filled with the power of God to even overcome sin and death.

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

Discipleship Bulletin Blub

The amazing gift of God's grace is shown in some pretty amazing things God has done through the prophets. Elijah pleaded with God for the life of a boy who had died and God restored that life. Jesus, the final and fulfilling prophet restored the life of a widow's son. Such amazing gifts of God's grace are also shown through the power of His Word. This is something we experience in our own age as we receive the forgiveness of sins and the assurance of eternal life. It is also something we can share with the world around us because God's grace is extended to all people through His Word.

Discipleship Prayer Thought

Almighty God, as You extended Your mercy through the prophet Elijah who pleaded for that mercy in behalf of a woman whose son had died, and as You extended Your mercy through Your Son in the restoration of the only son of a widow so long ago, extend Your mercy to us today through the power of Your Word that we might know the power of that Word in the new life we have in Jesus' name. Help us as well to share that Word of life with others that they, too, might know this same blessing in Jesus' name. Lord in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**