



**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.

**FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST - SERIES C**  
JUNE 19, 2016

**From C.P.H. About the Cover:** We like to think that if God were physically present with us in life, everything would be wonderful. We learn from the man, freed from demons, that God sent him away to “declare how much God has done for you.” God sends us on our daily way in life, so that we, too, may declare how much God has done for us through His Son, Jesus.

**First Reading; Isaiah 65:1–9**

<sup>1</sup>I was ready to be sought by those who did not ask for me;  
I was ready to be found by those who did not seek me.  
I said, “Here am I, here am I,” to a nation that was not called by my name.  
<sup>2</sup>I spread out my hands all the day to a rebellious people,  
who walk in a way that is not good, following their own devices;  
<sup>3</sup>a people who provoke me to my face continually,  
sacrificing in gardens and making offerings on bricks;  
<sup>4</sup>who sit in tombs, and spend the night in secret places;  
who eat pig’s flesh, and broth of tainted meat is in their vessels;  
<sup>5</sup>who say, “Keep to yourself, do not come near me, for I am too holy for you.”  
These are a smoke in my nostrils, a fire that burns all the day.  
<sup>6</sup>Behold, it is written before me: “I will not keep silent, but I will repay;  
I will indeed repay into their bosom  
<sup>7</sup>both your iniquities and your fathers’ iniquities together, says the LORD;  
because they made offerings on the mountains and insulted me on the hills,  
I will measure into their bosom payment for their former deeds.”

<sup>8</sup>Thus says the LORD: "As the new wine is found in the cluster,  
and they say, 'Do not destroy it, for there is a blessing in it,'  
so I will do for my servants' sake, and not destroy them all.

<sup>9</sup>I will bring forth offspring from Jacob, and from Judah possessors of my mountains;  
my chosen shall possess it, and my servants shall dwell there."

1<sup>st</sup> Reading Discipleship Notes: God is clearly unhappy with the sinfulness of man and the intentional desire to separate themselves from Him. Yet God is clearly pleased with those who confess sin and remain close to God's Word and His ways. While it is easy for modern disciples of Jesus Christ to point to the dark world around us and claim that God is unhappy and find merely condemnation for everyone else, how much better it is for believers to rejoice in the mercies of God in declaring our sins forgiven in the blood of Christ and our lives blessed because we are servants of God who have been given His eternal grace to be used in service for His even in this present life.

#### **Epistle Reading            Galatians 3:23—4:7**

<sup>23</sup>Now before faith came, we were held captive under the law, imprisoned until the coming faith would be revealed. <sup>24</sup>So then, the law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith. <sup>25</sup>But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian, <sup>26</sup>for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. <sup>27</sup>For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. <sup>28</sup>There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. <sup>29</sup>And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.

<sup>1</sup>I mean that the heir, as long as he is a child, is no different from a slave, though he is the owner of everything, <sup>2</sup>but he is under guardians and managers until the date set by his father. <sup>3</sup>In the same way we also, when we were children, were enslaved to the elementary principles of the world. <sup>4</sup>But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup>to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. <sup>6</sup>And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" <sup>7</sup>So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

Epistle Discipleship Notes: Understanding one's identity is a difficult thing. What we are in various environments differs. But what we are as believers in Christ remains the same wherever we are. In every situation of life we are God's children by grace through faith. We still have guidance from God's Law but we are not held captive or imprisoned under it. It is this guidance that we look for as modern disciples to see what the will of God is for us in whatever environment we find ourselves so that we might reflect the will of God as His children. Here is where the concept of our vocation comes into the picture, whether we are a parent, child, spouse, employer, employee, church worker, servant of the government, citizen or whatever. By the grace of God we can reflect ourselves as God's children in all of those environments.

**Gospel Reading:****Luke 8:26–39**

<sup>26</sup>Then they sailed to the country of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee. <sup>27</sup>When Jesus had stepped out on land, there met him a man from the city who had demons. For a long time he had worn no clothes, and he had not lived in a house but among the tombs. <sup>28</sup>When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell down before him and said with a loud voice, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me." <sup>29</sup>For he had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many a time it had seized him. He was kept under guard and bound with chains and shackles, but he would break the bonds and be driven by the demon into the desert.) <sup>30</sup>Jesus then asked him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Legion," for many demons had entered him. <sup>31</sup>And they begged him not to command them to depart into the abyss. <sup>32</sup>Now a large herd of pigs was feeding there on the hillside, and they begged him to let them enter these. So he gave them permission. <sup>33</sup>Then the demons came out of the man and entered the pigs, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and were drowned.

<sup>34</sup>When the herdsmen saw what had happened, they fled and told it in the city and in the country. <sup>35</sup>Then people went out to see what had happened, and they came to Jesus and found the man from whom the demons had gone, sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind, and they were afraid. <sup>36</sup>And those who had seen it told them how the demon-possessed man had been healed. <sup>37</sup>Then all the people of the surrounding country of the Gerasenes asked him to depart from them, for they were seized with great fear. So he got into the boat and returned. <sup>38</sup>The man from whom the demons had gone begged that he might be with him, but Jesus sent him away, saying, <sup>39</sup>"Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you." And he went away, proclaiming throughout the whole city how much Jesus had done for him.

Gospel Discipleship Notes: How much has God done for you? The demon possessed man and those who had witnessed the exorcism of the demons certainly could claim what God had done for that man. But what has God done for you? As modern day disciples, we can be like that man and do as Jesus asked him to do. By the grace of God we can return to our lives and each day declare how much God has done for us. Of course that also implies that we sit down and contemplate what that amounts to and after having done so, we will likely have enough material to fill the rest of our lives with witness of God's mercy and love for us.

## Adult/High School Youth Discipleship Bible Study Outline

### Read            **Isaiah 65:1–9**

<sup>1</sup>I was ready to be sought by those who did not ask for me;  
I was ready to be found by those who did not seek me.  
I said, "Here am I, here am I," to a nation that was not called by my name.  
<sup>2</sup>I spread out my hands all the day to a rebellious people,  
who walk in a way that is not good, following their own devices;  
<sup>3</sup>a people who provoke me to my face continually,  
sacrificing in gardens and making offerings on bricks;  
<sup>4</sup>who sit in tombs, and spend the night in secret places;  
who eat pig's flesh, and broth of tainted meat is in their vessels;  
<sup>5</sup>who say, "Keep to yourself, do not come near me, for I am too holy for you."  
These are a smoke in my nostrils, a fire that burns all the day.  
<sup>6</sup>Behold, it is written before me: "I will not keep silent, but I will repay;  
I will indeed repay into their bosom  
<sup>7</sup>both your iniquities and your fathers' iniquities together, says the LORD;  
because they made offerings on the mountains and insulted me on the hills,  
I will measure into their bosom payment for their former deeds."  
<sup>8</sup>Thus says the LORD: "As the new wine is found in the cluster,  
and they say, 'Do not destroy it, for there is a blessing in it,'  
so I will do for my servants' sake, and not destroy them all.  
<sup>9</sup>I will bring forth offspring from Jacob, and from Judah possessors of my mountains;  
my chosen shall possess it, and my servants shall dwell there."

1. In the previous chapter, Isaiah pleaded with God to restrain Himself from the just punishment the people deserved. Why did God have reason for just anger toward them?
2. What did God mean by saying, "I was ready to be found by those who did not seek me?"
3. What was meant by God's consequence in verse 7, "I will measure into their bosom payment for their former deeds?"
4. Who would become the offspring from Jacob who would possess the blessing?
5. What application from this reading might you make for your life?

### Read            **Galatians 3:23—4:7**

<sup>23</sup>Now before faith came, we were held captive under the law, imprisoned until the coming faith would be revealed. <sup>24</sup>So then, the law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith. <sup>25</sup>But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian,

<sup>26</sup>for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. <sup>27</sup>For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. <sup>28</sup>There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. <sup>29</sup>And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.

<sup>1</sup>I mean that the heir, as long as he is a child, is no different from a slave, though he is the owner of everything, <sup>2</sup>but he is under guardians and managers until the date set by his father. <sup>3</sup>In the same way we also, when we were children, were enslaved to the elementary principles of the world. <sup>4</sup>But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup>to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. <sup>6</sup>And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" <sup>7</sup>So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

6. What does it mean that we were held captive and imprisoned by the Law?
7. What does it mean that we have "put on Christ" as a result of Holy Baptism?
8. How does verse 29 speak to question 4 above?
9. What is meant by an heir or child being no different from a slave in 4:1-2?
10. How might this reading encourage us to live more serious lives of discipleship with regard to our faith?

**Read: Luke 8:26-39**

<sup>26</sup>Then they sailed to the country of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee. <sup>27</sup>When Jesus had stepped out on land, there met him a man from the city who had demons. For a long time he had worn no clothes, and he had not lived in a house but among the tombs. <sup>28</sup>When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell down before him and said with a loud voice, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me." <sup>29</sup>For he had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many a time it had seized him. He was kept under guard and bound with chains and shackles, but he would break the bonds and be driven by the demon into the desert.) <sup>30</sup>Jesus then asked him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Legion," for many demons had entered him. <sup>31</sup>And they begged him not to command them to depart into the abyss. <sup>32</sup>Now a large herd of pigs was feeding there on the hillside, and they begged him to let them enter these. So he gave them permission. <sup>33</sup>Then the demons came out of the man and entered the pigs, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and were drowned.

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the boat and returned. <sup>38</sup>The man from whom the demons had gone begged that he might be with him, but Jesus sent him away, saying, <sup>39</sup>“Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you.” And he went away, proclaiming throughout the whole city how much Jesus had done for him.

11. How does the life of the man parallel the lives of the people of Israel in the Old Testament Reading for today?
12. What did their response to witnessing this miracle have to say about many of the people of the region?
13. How is it that the demons knew who Christ was and their response to this knowledge was not to save them but rather to beg Jesus not to torment them?
14. What did Jesus instruction to the man in verse 39 suggest for 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 Isaiah 65:1-9

- <sup>1</sup>I was ready to be sought by those who did not ask for me;  
I was ready to be found by those who did not seek me.  
I said, "Here am I, here am I," to a nation that was not called by my name.
- <sup>2</sup>I spread out my hands all the day to a rebellious people,  
who walk in a way that is not good, following their own devices;
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sacrificing in gardens and making offerings on bricks;
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who eat pig's flesh, and broth of tainted meat is in their vessels;
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These are a smoke in my nostrils, a fire that burns all the day.
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and they say, 'Do not destroy it, for there is a blessing in it,'  
so I will do for my servants' sake, and not destroy them all.
- <sup>9</sup>I will bring forth offspring from Jacob, and from Judah possessors of my mountains;  
my chosen shall possess it, and my servants shall dwell there."

1. In the previous chapter, Isaiah pleaded with God to restrain Himself from the just punishment the people deserved. Why did God have reason for just anger toward them?

*The people had disregarded God, made sacrifice to idols and worshipped demons in the graveyards and among the tombs, told God to keep away from them, followed their own devices, etc.*

2. What did God mean by saying, "I was ready to be found by those who did not seek me?" does David's anger over the rich man have to say about us?

*He had extended the invitation of His mercy to the people but they refused it and sought the things of other gods.*

3. What was meant by God's consequence in verse 7, "I will measure into their bosom payment for their former deeds?"

*Most scholars suggest that for something to be "measured in one's bosom" means that they will take on the characteristics of their predecessors. Think of the days of Jesus and the likeness of the Scribes and Pharisees to the people of Isaiah's time.*

4. Who would become the offspring from Jacob who would possess the blessing?

*This would be the new kingdom established by the Christ like new grapes in a new vineyard which we call the Church. These are they of whom Paul spoke regarding these words in Romans 11 where he wrote of the remnant of the faithful Jews and the election of the Gentiles who would come to God's grace through faith.*

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

**Read: Galatians 3:23—4:7**

<sup>23</sup>Now before faith came, we were held captive under the law, imprisoned until the coming faith would be revealed. <sup>24</sup>So then, the law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith. <sup>25</sup>But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian, <sup>26</sup>for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. <sup>27</sup>For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. <sup>28</sup>There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. <sup>29</sup>And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.

<sup>1</sup>I mean that the heir, as long as he is a child, is no different from a slave, though he is the owner of everything, <sup>2</sup>but he is under guardians and managers until the date set by his father. <sup>3</sup>In the same way we also, when we were children, were enslaved to the elementary principles of the world. <sup>4</sup>But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup>to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. <sup>6</sup>And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" <sup>7</sup>So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

6. What does it mean that we were held captive and imprisoned by the Law?

*The Law only condemns and kills before we come to faith. That was our condition, one of death and condemnation. But now we are alive by faith while still under the guardianship of the Law but not under its condemnation*

7. What does it mean that we have "put on Christ" as a result of Holy Baptism?

*In Holy Baptism we become united to the Triune God. As Christ was the physical embodiment of God here on earth, we "put on Christ" meaning that we become the physical witness of Christ as we wear His garment of salvation which is His promise to us.*

8. How does verse 29 speak to question 4 above?

*We are now the children of God by faith and heirs of God according to the promise. We are the new grapes God talked about in the Old Testament Reading, the new Church on earth brought about by faith, not by deeds of the Law.*

9. What is meant by an heir or child being no different from a slave in 4:1-2?

*The Law still guards and guides us. While we are no longer subject to it as an accuser or judge to condemn us to death, the law serves as a guide to give us direction in how to live our lives as God's children.*

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

**READ: Luke 8:26–39**

<sup>26</sup>Then they sailed to the country of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee. <sup>27</sup>When Jesus had stepped out on land, there met him a man from the city who had demons. For a long time he had worn no clothes, and he had not lived in a house but among the tombs. <sup>28</sup>When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell down before him and said with a loud voice, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me." <sup>29</sup>For he had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many a time it had seized him. He was kept under guard and bound with chains and shackles, but he would break the bonds and be driven by the demon into the desert.) <sup>30</sup>Jesus then asked him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Legion," for many demons had entered him. <sup>31</sup>And they begged him not to command them to depart into the abyss. <sup>32</sup>Now a large herd of pigs was feeding there on the hillside, and they begged him to let them enter these. So he gave them permission. <sup>33</sup>Then the demons came out of the man and entered the pigs, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and were drowned.

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11. How does the life of the man parallel the lives of the people of Israel in the Old Testament Reading for today?

*His living among the tombs was where the Israelites were practicing their satanic ritual worship and were rejecting God. So also this man because of the demonic possession he had.*

12. What did their response to witnessing this miracle have to say about many of the people of the region?

*It spoke of their greater love for their livestock and livelihood than their love for God and His mercy.*

13. How is it that the demons knew who Christ was and their response to this knowledge was not to save them but rather to beg Jesus not to torment them?

*Demons always identified Jesus as the One with authority over all things before people did. This is because as Paul says in Philippians 2:10, all things in heaven and on earth and under the earth will confess that Jesus is Lord to the glory of God the Father.*

14. What did Jesus instruction to the man in verse 39 suggest for us today?

*It suggests the same thing, that we first of all recognize all the great things God has done for us and then that we share with others the great things God has done for us. This ought to be our constant testimony.*

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

## Discipleship Bulletin Blub

The great things God has done for us so often get overlooked, avoided, forgotten or even dismissed. But they are great and they are wonderful.

As modern disciples of Christ is it a wonderful blessing to first of all identify the great things God has done and then secondly, like the man exorcised of demons, make known those great things to others.

## Discipleship Prayer Thought

Heavenly Father, we give thanks to You for all the great things You have done for us, especially for the gift of forgiveness and eternal life in Jesus' name. Grant us grace to make known these great things given to us by Your mercy to those with whom we come in contact and even through our sacrificial gifts, made known to people throughout the world. Lord in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**