



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.

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From C.P.H. About the Cover: Pastors have been given the privilege and the responsibility to rightly proclaim God’s Word. It is not their words and thoughts to express, but rather God’s words for His people, words by which God gives us hope for this life and the life to come. When pastors share God’s Word, we then hear what God would have us hear for our eternal salvation.

First Reading: Isaiah 66:10–14

- ¹⁰“Rejoice with Jerusalem, and be glad for her, all you who love her;
rejoice with her in joy, all you who mourn over her;
¹¹that you may nurse and be satisfied from her consoling breast;
that you may drink deeply with delight from her glorious abundance.”
¹²For thus says the LORD: “Behold, I will extend peace to her like a river,
and the glory of the nations like an overflowing stream;
and you shall nurse, you shall be carried upon her hip, and bounced upon her knees.
¹³As one whom his mother comforts, so I will comfort you;
you shall be comforted in Jerusalem.
¹⁴You shall see, and your heart shall rejoice; your bones shall flourish like the grass;
and the hand of the LORD shall be known to his servants,
and he shall show his indignation against his enemies.”

1st Reading Discipleship Notes: God always wants to extend His grace and love to His people. He did so in the promise of Jerusalem’s people and expressed how His hand would be known to His people in offering His grace and favor. We have that same gift of God’s grace and as a result also have the gift of the Holy Spirit to extend that love and mercy of God to the world

around us in our conversation, our service and also in our generous support of mercy ministries. There might not be a return to Jerusalem for these people of God, but there can be mercy extended to them wherever they are and in whatever situation they are found. This kind of service and mercy offers hope for the future.

Epistle Reading Galatians 6:1–10, 14–18

¹Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted. ²Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. ³For if anyone thinks he is something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself. ⁴But let each one test his own work, and then his reason to boast will be in himself alone and not in his neighbor. ⁵For each will have to bear his own load.

⁶One who is taught the word must share all good things with the one who teaches. ⁷Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. ⁸For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. ⁹And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. ¹⁰So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.

¹⁴But far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. ¹⁵For neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation. ¹⁶And as for all who walk by this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of God.

¹⁷From now on let no one cause me trouble, for I bear on my body the marks of Jesus.

¹⁸The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brothers. Amen.

Epistle Discipleship Notes: Paul encouraged a life of extending mercy to people because of the mercy God had extended to us. He encouraged not to grow weary in doing good. All of our readings for today call for us to extend kindness and mercy to others. Paul even encourages this kind of kindness even when we are called to restore someone who is caught in sin. God's kindness and mercy goes a long way. Our kindness and mercy does also through the way we care for one another and the manner in which we speak with one another.

Gospel Reading: Luke 10:1-20

¹After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them on ahead of him, two by two, into every town and place where he himself was about to go. ²And he said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. ³Go your way; behold, I am sending you out as lambs in the midst of wolves. ⁴Carry no moneybag, no knapsack, no sandals, and greet no one on the road. ⁵Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace be to this house!' ⁶And if a son of peace is there, your peace will rest upon him. But if not, it will return to you. ⁷And remain in the same house, eating and drinking what they provide, for the laborer deserves his wages. Do not go from house to house. ⁸Whenever you enter a town and they receive you, eat what is set before you. ⁹Heal the sick in it and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.' ¹⁰But whenever you enter a town and they do not receive you, go into its streets and say, ¹¹'Even the dust of your town that clings to our feet we wipe off against you. Nevertheless know this, that the kingdom of God has come near.' ¹²I tell you, it will be more bearable on that day for Sodom than for that town.

¹³"Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the mighty works done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago, sitting in sackcloth and ashes. ¹⁴But it will be

more bearable in the judgment for Tyre and Sidon than for you. ¹⁵And you, Capernaum, will you be exalted to heaven? You shall be brought down to Hades.

¹⁶“The one who hears you hears me, and the one who rejects you rejects me, and the one who rejects me rejects him who sent me.”

¹⁷The seventy-two returned with joy, saying, “Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your name!” ¹⁸And he said to them, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. ¹⁹Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you. ²⁰Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.”

Gospel Discipleship Notes: Christ sent out people to proclaim the nearness of God’s Kingdom among the people. He still does so today. At this time of year we are anxious to ordain and install recent seminary graduates whose job it is to proclaim the nearness of God’s Kingdom. The blessing of doing this isn’t in the demons subjecting themselves or Satan’s fall, but rather the fact that we are a part of the heavenly kingdom. This is God’s powerful display of mercy, that sinners such as we are still welcomed into the kingdom by His grace. This then also becomes our joy in ministry, to extend that grace and God’s kingdom to others in every way we possibly can.

Adult/High School Youth Discipleship Bible Study Outline

Read **Isaiah 66:10–14**

- ¹⁰“Rejoice with Jerusalem, and be glad for her, all you who love her;
rejoice with her in joy, all you who mourn over her;
¹¹that you may nurse and be satisfied from her consoling breast;
that you may drink deeply with delight from her glorious abundance.”
¹²For thus says the LORD: “Behold, I will extend peace to her like a river,
and the glory of the nations like an overflowing stream;
and you shall nurse, you shall be carried upon her hip, and bounced upon her knees.
¹³As one whom his mother comforts, so I will comfort you;
you shall be comforted in Jerusalem.
¹⁴You shall see, and your heart shall rejoice; your bones shall flourish like the grass;
and the hand of the LORD shall be known to his servants,
and he shall show his indignation against his enemies.”

1. Who were they and why were people mourning over Jerusalem?
2. In what way does the nursing imagery suggest consolation and comfort?
3. How is God’s peace like a river?
4. The hand of the Lord is seen both in judgement and in mercy. How is His hand made known to His servants today?
5. What application from this reading might you make for your life?

Read **Galatians 6:1–10, 14–18**

¹Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted. ²Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. ³For if anyone thinks he is something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself. ⁴But let each one test his own work, and then his reason to boast will be in himself alone and not in his neighbor. ⁵For each will have to bear his own load.

⁶One who is taught the word must share all good things with the one who teaches. ⁷Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. ⁸For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. ⁹And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. ¹⁰So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.

¹⁴But far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. ¹⁵For neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation. ¹⁶And as for all who walk by this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of God.

¹⁷From now on let no one cause me trouble, for I bear on my body the marks of Jesus.

¹⁸The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brothers. Amen.

6. How does one restore a transgressor in a spirit of gentleness?
7. How does bearing one another's burdens fulfill the law of Christ?
8. How is verse 6 carried out in the Church?
9. What rule is Paul talking about in verse 16?
10. How might this reading encourage us to live more serious lives of discipleship with regard to our faith?

Read: Luke 10:1-20

¹After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them on ahead of him, two by two, into every town and place where he himself was about to go. ²And he said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. ³Go your way; behold, I am sending you out as lambs in the midst of wolves. ⁴Carry no moneybag, no knapsack, no sandals, and greet no one on the road. ⁵Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace be to this house!' ⁶And if a son of peace is there, your peace will rest upon him. But if not, it will return to you. ⁷And remain in the same house, eating and drinking what they provide, for the laborer deserves his wages. Do not go from house to house. ⁸Whenever you enter a town and they receive you, eat what is set before you. ⁹Heal the sick in it and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.' ¹⁰But whenever you enter a town and they do not receive you, go into its streets and say, ¹¹'Even the dust of your town that clings to our feet we wipe off against you. Nevertheless know this, that the kingdom of God has come near.' ¹²I tell you, it will be more bearable on that day for Sodom than for that town.

¹³"Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the mighty works done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago, sitting in sackcloth and ashes. ¹⁴But it will be more bearable in the judgment for Tyre and Sidon than for you. ¹⁵And you, Capernaum, will you be exalted to heaven? You shall be brought down to Hades.

¹⁶"The one who hears you hears me, and the one who rejects you rejects me, and the one who rejects me rejects him who sent me."

¹⁷The seventy-two returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your name!" ¹⁸And he said to them, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. ¹⁹Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you. ²⁰Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven."

11. How earnestly are you praying for laborers in the harvest field?
12. What does it mean that the kingdom of God is near?
13. When Jesus talks about the judgement in verse 14, what does He mean?

14. How does verse 16 relate to the Church today?
15. Why are the things we do less important than the fact that our names are written in heaven?
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 **Isaiah 66:10–14**

- ¹⁰“Rejoice with Jerusalem, and be glad for her, all you who love her; rejoice with her in joy, all you who mourn over her;
- ¹¹that you may nurse and be satisfied from her consoling breast; that you may drink deeply with delight from her glorious abundance.”
- ¹²For thus says the LORD: “Behold, I will extend peace to her like a river, and the glory of the nations like an overflowing stream; and you shall nurse, you shall be carried upon her hip, and bounced upon her knees.
- ¹³As one whom his mother comforts, so I will comfort you; you shall be comforted in Jerusalem.
- ¹⁴You shall see, and your heart shall rejoice; your bones shall flourish like the grass; and the hand of the LORD shall be known to his servants, and he shall show his indignation against his enemies.”

1. Who were they and why were people mourning over Jerusalem?

These were the people of Judah who had been removed from Jerusalem and the promised land and taken into the captivity of Babylon.

2. In what way does the nursing imagery suggest consolation and comfort?

A child is comforted in the ability to nurse from its mother's breast. This soothes the child and calms the child from the discomfort it experiences. In the same way, God wants to sooth us and comfort us and calm us from all our pain and suffering due to sin.

3. How is God's peace like a river?

A river continues to flow and in the same way, God's peace continues to flow to us and through us.

4. The hand of the Lord is seen both in judgement and in mercy. How is His hand made known to His servants today?

It is made known through the Word of God conveyed to us through the laborers in the harvest field as they proclaim the Word in the Church.

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

Read: **Galatians 6:1–10, 14–18**

¹Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted. ²Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. ³For if anyone thinks he is something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself. ⁴But let each one test his own work, and then his reason to boast will be in himself alone and not in his neighbor. ⁵For each will have to bear his own load.

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his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. ⁹And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. ¹⁰So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.

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¹⁸The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brothers. Amen.

6. How does one restore a transgressor in a spirit of gentleness?

He does so in gentleness by offering the forgiveness of sins without any restrictive obligations to fulfill in order to receive it. Some churches still require certain expectations of personal sacrifice or obligation in order to receive forgiveness. This is not a spirit of gentleness, but rather a spirit of restriction and demanding expectation.

7. How does bearing one another's burdens fulfill the law of Christ?

The Law of Christ is to love God with all your heart, soul and mind and to love your neighbor as yourself. This law Christ perfectly and completely fulfilled. When we bear one another's burdens we are loving our neighbor appropriately. In doing so, we are doing as Christ did as He fulfilled the Law.

8. How is verse 6 carried out in the Church?

It is carried out as the Church cares for the physical needs of the pastor and teachers and other workers in the Church. When this is done equitably and appropriately the end result is that the church worker is able to do his job well and with a spirit of thanksgiving.

9. What rule is Paul talking about in verse 16?

This is the rule of the Gospel, namely that we are not saved by what we do, but by grace only. In Christ we are made a new creation and as a new creation our lives are changed completely and we no longer are required to please God, but rather we are simply expected to live by faith and it alone, relying on the grace of God to keep us in faith.

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

READ: Luke 10:1-20

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plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. ³Go your way; behold, I am sending you out as lambs in the midst of wolves. ⁴Carry no moneybag, no knapsack, no sandals, and greet no one on the road. ⁵Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace be to this house!' ⁶And if a son of peace is there, your peace will rest upon him. But if not, it will return to you. ⁷And remain in the same house, eating and drinking what they provide, for the laborer deserves his wages. Do not go from house to house. ⁸Whenever you enter a town and they receive you, eat what is set before you. ⁹Heal the sick in it and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.' ¹⁰But whenever you enter a town and they do not receive you, go into its streets and say, ¹¹'Even the dust of your town that clings to our feet we wipe off against you. Nevertheless know this, that the kingdom of God has come near.' ¹²I tell you, it will be more bearable on that day for Sodom than for that town.

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11. How earnestly are you praying for laborers in the harvest field?

Answers will vary, but his becomes a prime time to talk about the importance of such prayer not only for the new workers in the kingdom, but also for those who have been serving already.

12. What does it mean that the kingdom of God is near?

Luther properly clarified this matter in the meaning of the 2nd petition in which he said that the kingdom of God comes to us where ever the Word of God is preached in its truth and purity and we as the Children of God live a godly life according to it. The Kingdom of God is among us in the presentation to us of the Word and the gift of the sacraments.

13. When Jesus talks about the judgement in verse 14, what does He mean?

The judgement Jesus is referring to is not the judgement that destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah but the ultimate judgement when on the final day, Christ will come again to judge both the living and the dead.

14. How does verse 16 relate to the Church today?

Pastors stand in the stead of Christ and as they proclaim God's Word to us, the end result is that we either hear it and learn it or we reject it. Either way we are either hearing God and rejecting Him.

15. Why are the things we do less important than the fact that our names are written in heaven?

The things we do account for nothing with regard to our salvation. The fact that our names are written in heaven is what is the important. Our works and the wonders performed by those sent were meaningless even though they were what filled the front of their minds.

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

Discipleship Bulletin Blub

Speaking words of comfort and peace offered great hope for the Jews in the first reading for today. To restore the fallen sinner in a spirit of gentleness offers great hope as well. To speak of the nearness of the kingdom of God does the same. This is the purpose of the Church and by the grace of God can become our great goal individually and corporately in the Church.

Discipleship Prayer Thought

God our heavenly Father, for the sake of the Gospel, grant us a full measure of the Holy Spirit so to speak words of hope and comfort to those who are troubled in heart and mind, to restore the transgressor with gentleness and words of forgiveness, and to proclaim in earnestness that the Kingdom of God is near. Fill us with Your Word that we might also share that message of the Gospel with others. Lord in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**