



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.

TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST - SERIES C
JULY 24, 2016

From C.P.H. About the Cover: This prayer is for children and adults. This prayer comforts us because we know it is acceptable to the Father, for it was taught by His Son. The prayer contains all we need to support this life, spiritually and physically, for us and our neighbor. Jesus gave us this prayer so that we may pray with confidence that our prayer will be answered. Lord, remember us in Your kingdom, and teach us to pray.

First Reading: Genesis 18:20–33

²⁰Then the LORD said, “Because the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is great and their sin is very grave, ²¹I will go down to see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry that has come to me. And if not, I will know.”

²²So the men turned from there and went toward Sodom, but Abraham still stood before the LORD. ²³Then Abraham drew near and said, “Will you indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked? ²⁴Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city. Will you then sweep away the place and not spare it for the fifty righteous who are in it? ²⁵Far be it from you to do such a thing, to put the righteous to death with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that from you! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?” ²⁶And the LORD said, “If I find at Sodom fifty righteous in the city, I will spare the whole place for their sake.”

²⁷Abraham answered and said, “Behold, I have undertaken to speak to the Lord, I who am but dust and ashes. ²⁸Suppose five of the fifty righteous are lacking. Will you destroy the whole city for lack of five?” And he said, “I will not destroy it if I find forty-five there.” ²⁹Again he spoke to him and said, “Suppose forty are found there.” He answered, “For the sake of forty I will not do it.” ³⁰Then he said, “Oh let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak. Suppose thirty are found there.” He answered, “I will not do it, if I find thirty there.” ³¹He said, “Behold, I have

undertaken to speak to the Lord. Suppose twenty are found there." He answered, "For the sake of twenty I will not destroy it." ³²Then he said, "Oh let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak again but this once. Suppose ten are found there." He answered, "For the sake of ten I will not destroy it." ³³And the LORD went his way, when he had finished speaking to Abraham, and Abraham returned to his place.

1st Reading Discipleship Notes: Abraham was able to pray boldly to the Lord and yet remain humble before the Lord. Today we are given the grace of God to do likewise. We can constantly and humbly come before the Lord in prayer and indeed He invites us to do so. When we place our confidence and trust in God's willingness to answer our prayer, we can also rest assured that He will do so according to His will, His grace and His power.

Epistle Reading Colossians 2:6–15

⁶Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, ⁷rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

⁸See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ. ⁹For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, ¹⁰and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority. ¹¹In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, ¹²having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead. ¹³And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, ¹⁴by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. ¹⁵He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.

Epistle Discipleship Notes: Paul called believers to walk continuously in the Lord, meaning to follow His commands and will, but he said this in only possible because of the fact that Jesus was victorious over sin and death in our behalf. Nailed to the cross with Jesus was the power over sin, Satan and death. This we have for the purpose of our salvation, but also to enable us by God's grace to walk in the ways of the Lord. Christ has secured our salvation, but He has also empowered us through His life, death and resurrection which we received in Holy Baptism to live in this new life as disciples of Christ who willingly walk in His way.

Gospel Reading: Luke 11:1–13

¹Now Jesus was praying in a certain place, and when he finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples." ²And he said to them, "When you pray, say:

“Father, hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come.
³Give us each day our daily bread,
⁴and forgive us our sins,
for we ourselves forgive everyone who is indebted to us.
And lead us not into temptation.”

⁵And he said to them, “Which of you who has a friend will go to him at midnight and say to him, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves, ⁶for a friend of mine has arrived on a journey, and I have nothing to set before him’; ⁷and he will answer from within, ‘Do not bother me; the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed. I cannot get up and give you anything’? ⁸I tell you, though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, yet because of his impudence he will rise and give him whatever he needs. ⁹And I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. ¹⁰For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. ¹¹What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will instead of a fish give him a serpent; ¹²or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? ¹³If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”

Gospel Discipleship Notes: God wants to give us good gifts and also what we need. But He also encourages us to ask for these things trusting in His mercy to provide them. In the Lord’s Prayer we see an example of asking for good things that we need. Namely; forgiveness of sins, deliverance from evil, being near Him in His kingdom, etc. These good gifts God freely gives to us and these gifts are precisely what we need. As disciples of Christ we can boldly and confidently pray for such things knowing His good and gracious answer which is always, “these good gifts are yours and you need them.”

Adult/High School Youth Discipleship Bible Study Outline

Read Genesis 18:20–33

²⁰Then the LORD said, "Because the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is great and their sin is very grave, ²¹I will go down to see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry that has come to me. And if not, I will know."

²²So the men turned from there and went toward Sodom, but Abraham still stood before the LORD. ²³Then Abraham drew near and said, "Will you indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked? ²⁴Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city. Will you then sweep away the place and not spare it for the fifty righteous who are in it? ²⁵Far be it from you to do such a thing, to put the righteous to death with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that from you! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?" ²⁶And the LORD said, "If I find at Sodom fifty righteous in the city, I will spare the whole place for their sake."

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1. From where did the outcry come to the Lord?
2. Why would Abraham have wanted the Lord to spare the city for the sake of the righteous?
3. What is it that deems someone righteous?
4. What caused Abraham to speak so boldly to the Lord?
5. What application from this reading might you make for your life?

Read Colossians 2:6–15

⁶Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, ⁷rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

⁸See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ. ⁹For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, ¹⁰and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority. ¹¹In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made

without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, ¹²having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead. ¹³And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, ¹⁴by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. ¹⁵He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.

6. What does Paul say that is a proper response to being rooted, grounded and established in the faith?
7. How might that be seen in our lives?
8. What kinds of things can take people captive today which meet the criteria of verse 8?
9. What does it mean that we have been buried with Christ in baptism and what effect does it have on your life?
10. How might this reading encourage us to live more serious lives of discipleship with regard to our faith?

Read: Luke 11:1–13

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11. Why had the disciples not known how to pray as Jesus did or John had done?
12. Luther divided the Lord's Prayer into petitions. All of the petitions with exception of one were petitions for spiritual things. Why is this significant?
13. What did the parabolic examples of giving intend to teach the disciples and us?
14. What is the major gift God wants to give His people according to verse 13?
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)

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1. From where did the outcry come to the Lord?

We must remember that there is a host of spiritual beings that are constantly in battle in the heavenly places, for "we do not wrestle against flesh and blood but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places." (Eph. 6:12) It is from the spiritual beings that the outcry came to the Lord.

2. Why would Abraham have wanted the Lord to spare the city for the sake of the righteous?

Abraham's desire to save Sodom for the sake of a few righteous came about because of his concern primarily for his nephew Lot and his family who he believed were righteous because of faith.

3. What is it that deems someone righteous?

"Abraham believed and it was accounted to him for righteousness" (James 2:23). Faith in God's Word and promise is what deems one as righteous.

4. What caused Abraham to speak so boldly to the Lord?

Abraham had a close relationship with God which included a confidence in the Lord's power to do immeasurable more than we can ask or imagine (Ephesians 3:20). Such a bold confidence in the power of God and the will of God is something granted Abraham by the grace of God and also something granted us in the same way.

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

Read: Colossians 2:6–15

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6. What does Paul say that is a proper response to being rooted, grounded and established in the faith?

Abounding in thanksgiving!

7. How might that be seen in our lives?

It might be seen in our prayer lives, our joyous and willing sacrifices, our monetary gifts, our service, etc.

8. What kinds of things can take people captive today which meet the criteria of verse 8?

Answers can vary and it can become a grand opportunity to discuss freely some of those things that members might be experiencing in their circle of friends or neighborhoods. There are numerous modern religious and philosophical things that meet the criteria of verse 8. While there is a sense of spiritualism that is permeating the Western World, it is not built upon the truths of Holy Scripture, rather built upon a sense of moralism. The influence of Eastern religious thoughts and practices also are prevalent which provide religious ritual and discipline, but offer nothing for the matter of sin, forgiveness, redemption or salvation.

9. What does it mean that we have been buried with Christ in baptism and what effect does it have on your life?

Through Holy Baptism, all that was accomplished for the salvation of man in the death and resurrection of Christ is transferred to us. It is as if we were literally buried and raised with Christ. The effect this has on us is incredible. There is forgiveness, holiness, righteousness, eternal life, etc. which are all given to us through this sacred act of Holy Baptism. That having been accomplished in us, we ought to experience a full life of thanksgiving and joyful service to God.

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

READ: Luke 11:1-13

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11. Why had the disciples not known how to pray as Jesus did or John had done?

The disciples had been raised in the practice of the Jewish tradition which prayed the Psalms regularly and practiced other ritualistic worship but were not taught to offer prayer as Jesus had done or John had done.

12. Luther divided the Lord's Prayer into petitions. All of the petitions with exception of one were petitions for spiritual things. Why is this significant?

Answers will vary but it is significant that the vast majority of petitions were for spiritual blessings because without exception, God wills these things for us and they are freely given to us.

13. What did the parabolic examples of giving intend to teach the disciples and us?

They were intended to teach the fact that sinful people are willing to give, so how much more God is willing to give good gifts to His people.

14. What is the major gift God wants to give His people according to verse 13?

The Holy Spirit who is necessary for all the spiritual blessings asked for in the Lord's Prayer.

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

Discipleship Bulletin Blub

How willing are you to boldly and confidently pray and really ask God for the things that are vital and necessary for your life as a disciple? Active prayer life is a reflection of your life as a disciple and an encouragement to others in their spiritual walk with Christ. As Baptized children of the most High God, we are given the gift of the Holy Spirit to not only practice prayer life, but also engage in spiritual service with thanksgiving.

Discipleship Prayer Thought

Dear God our heavenly Father, You desire our prayer and promise to bless us with Your spiritual gifts as we ask in the Lord's Prayer. Help us to be diligent in our prayer life and bold to seek Your good and gracious gifts that we might better serve You and others in Your name. Lord in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**