



**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.

**TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST - SERIES C**

October 16, 2016

**From C.P.H. About the Cover:** God Himself gives us reason for hope. Often, we think we are taken advantage of with no recourse, no way out. But we need to turn to God. Not just once, but until we receive justice. As the widow kept seeking justice, we, too, can seek justice from God. Not only has God promised justice, but He has also promised justice speedily. We have hope in our God and Lord.

**First Reading: Genesis 32:22–30**

<sup>22</sup>The same night he arose and took his two wives, his two female servants, and his eleven children, and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. <sup>23</sup>He took them and sent them across the stream, and everything else that he had. <sup>24</sup>And Jacob was left alone. And a man wrestled with him until the breaking of the day. <sup>25</sup>When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he touched his hip socket, and Jacob’s hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. <sup>26</sup>Then he said, “Let me go, for the day has broken.” But Jacob said, “I will not let you go unless you bless me.” <sup>27</sup>And he said to him, “What is your name?” And he said, “Jacob.” <sup>28</sup>Then he said, “Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with men, and have prevailed.” <sup>29</sup>Then Jacob asked him, “Please tell me your name.” But he said, “Why is it that you ask my name?” And there he blessed him. <sup>30</sup>So Jacob called the name of the place Peniel, saying, “For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life has been delivered.”

1<sup>st</sup> Reading Discipleship Notes: Imagine wrestling with God. Who is going to win? In this situation the issue was not who wins, but who prevails to receive God's blessing. That is what happened to Jacob. He prevailed and received God's blessing. Like Jacob, because of God's mercy, we prevail in the faith, clinging to the truths of His Word and celebrating the joy of salvation each week as we gather in God's House for worship. Like Jacob, our lives have been delivered from sin, death and the power of the evil one. Having such a divine blessing, we can continue to prevail in the faith and in service to God and to others. We can further offer of ourselves and of our bounty as we discover Jacob did in response to God's goodness as we read the next chapter of Genesis.

**Epistle Reading      2 Timothy 3:14—4:5**

<sup>14</sup> As for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it <sup>15</sup>and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. <sup>16</sup>All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup>that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work.

<sup>1</sup>I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: <sup>2</sup>preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. <sup>3</sup>For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, <sup>4</sup>and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths. <sup>5</sup>As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

Epistle Discipleship Notes: Once again the matter of prevailing in faith is taught us in this reading. Paul encourages Timothy to continue being devoted to God and the sacred teachings of God's Word. Paul further identified the purpose of the Scripture which is to make us wise unto salvation through faith in Christ, but also to teach, correct, train, etc. As modern day disciples, we have this same encouragement which is to remain devoted to God and the sacred teachings of His Word. Having received grace to believe and wisdom for salvation, we can remain devoted to the Word. We can grow in understanding it and using it properly. We can share that Word with others and demonstrate the effect of that Word in our lives as the love of God works in and through us.

**Gospel Reading      Luke 18:1–8**

<sup>1</sup>And he told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart. <sup>2</sup>He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor respected man. <sup>3</sup>And there was a widow in that city who kept coming to him and saying, 'Give me justice against my adversary.' <sup>4</sup>For a while he refused, but afterward he said to himself, 'Though I neither fear God nor respect man, <sup>5</sup>yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will give her justice, so that

she will not beat me down by her continual coming.”<sup>6</sup> And the Lord said, “Hear what the unrighteous judge says.<sup>7</sup> And will not God give justice to his elect, who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long over them? <sup>8</sup>I tell you, he will give justice to them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?”

Gospel Discipleship Notes: The final phrase of this reading strikes a chord, doesn't it? The world continues to go down the drain it seems. Will the Savior find faith on earth when He comes to judge the living and the dead? Because of His rich grace, He will. His people who continue to abide in His Word, will continue to be His disciples. While they may face hardship and danger, persecution and warfare for the faith, they will remain faithful to God's Word. God's grace enables us to endure. God's grace continues to work in us so that we can continue to rejoice in our salvation and continue to serve in His Kingdom to seek justice for others and to care for those who cry out to Him day and night because of their painful existence.

## Adult/High School Youth Discipleship Bible Study Outline

### Read Genesis 32:22–30

<sup>22</sup>The same night he arose and took his two wives, his two female servants, and his eleven children, and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. <sup>23</sup>He took them and sent them across the stream, and everything else that he had. <sup>24</sup>And Jacob was left alone. And a man wrestled with him until the breaking of the day. <sup>25</sup>When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he touched his hip socket, and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. <sup>26</sup>Then he said, "Let me go, for the day has broken." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go unless you bless me." <sup>27</sup>And he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." <sup>28</sup>Then he said, "Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with men, and have prevailed." <sup>29</sup>Then Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And there he blessed him. <sup>30</sup>So Jacob called the name of the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life has been delivered."

1. What do you perceive to be the primary theme of this reading?
2. Many scholars point to Hosea 12:4 as a reference to what happened in this reading. How does it not describe everything we see recorded here?
3. What is significant about Jacob's name change and what does "Israel" mean?
4. How has this name change had an effect even on this modern world?
5. What application from this reading might you make for your life?

### Read 2 Timothy 3:14—4:5

<sup>14</sup> As for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it <sup>15</sup>and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. <sup>16</sup>All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup>that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work.

<sup>1</sup>I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: <sup>2</sup>preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. <sup>3</sup>For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, <sup>4</sup>and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths. <sup>5</sup>As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

6. What was Timothy charged to continue learning and believing?
7. What does it mean that all Scripture is "breathed out by God"?

8. Listening to some sermons we often hear entertaining stories about life and cute stories. How is this in line with 4:2, or is it?
9. Discuss the meaning of “itching ears” and the direct objects of them as seen in this reading (passions and myths).
10. How might this reading encourage us to live more serious lives of discipleship with regard to our faith?

**Read: Luke 18:1–8**

<sup>1</sup>And he told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart. <sup>2</sup>He said, “In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor respected man. <sup>3</sup>And there was a widow in that city who kept coming to him and saying, ‘Give me justice against my adversary.’ <sup>4</sup>For a while he refused, but afterward he said to himself, ‘Though I neither fear God nor respect man, <sup>5</sup>yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will give her justice, so that she will not beat me down by her continual coming.’” <sup>6</sup>And the Lord said, “Hear what the unrighteous judge says. <sup>7</sup>And will not God give justice to his elect, who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long over them? <sup>8</sup>I tell you, he will give justice to them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?”

11. In most recordings of parables, the purpose for telling them is not initially disclosed. Why did Jesus tell this parable?
12. How is the judge’s response to the woman’s pleas like or unlike that of God?
13. Do you agree or disagree with the statements of God’s response in verse 7?
14. What do you think of the final statement of this reading?
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 Genesis 32:22–30

<sup>22</sup>The same night he arose and took his two wives, his two female servants, and his eleven children, and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. <sup>23</sup>He took them and sent them across the stream, and everything else that he had. <sup>24</sup>And Jacob was left alone. And a man wrestled with him until the breaking of the day. <sup>25</sup>When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he touched his hip socket, and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. <sup>26</sup>Then he said, "Let me go, for the day has broken." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go unless you bless me." <sup>27</sup>And he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." <sup>28</sup>Then he said, "Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with men, and have prevailed." <sup>29</sup>Then Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And there he blessed him. <sup>30</sup>So Jacob called the name of the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life has been delivered."

1. What do you perceive to be the primary theme of this reading?

*Answers will vary, but as we discover in the meaning of Jacob's name change, the primary theme here is "prevailing" in the faith.*

2. Many scholars point to Hosea 12:4 as a reference to what happened in this reading. How does it not describe everything we see recorded here?

*The Hosea passage points only to a spiritual wrestling with prayer, etc. while this reading also specifically points to a physical wrestling that takes place.*

3. What is significant about Jacob's name change and what does "Israel" mean?

*Many times God made name changes of His people's leaders and of His people. The name changes were significant because they each meant something about what God would do through the people whose names were changed. "Israel" means "May God Prevail".*

4. How has this name change had an effect even on this modern world?

*The nation formed through the offspring of Jacob still prevails today despite the many attempts to destroy it throughout the ages.*

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

### Read: 2 Timothy 3:14—4:5

<sup>14</sup> As for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it <sup>15</sup>and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. <sup>16</sup>All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and

for training in righteousness,<sup>17</sup> that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work.

<sup>1</sup>I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: <sup>2</sup>preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. <sup>3</sup>For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, <sup>4</sup>and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths. <sup>5</sup>As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

6. What was Timothy charged to continue learning and believing?

*He was charged to continue learning and believing the Word of God. This needs to be an unending matter for all people, not only pastors. Once again “prevailing” or “persistence” seems to be an over-riding them.*

7. What does it mean that all Scripture is “breathed out by God”?

*This phrase means that all the Scripture is “inspired” by God. The very words having come from the very breath (a term associated with the Holy Spirit and His work) of God into the minds, hearts and hand-held pens of the writers of Sacred Scripture.*

8. Listening to some sermons we often hear entertaining stories about life and cute stories. How is this in line with 4:2, or is it?

*Allow for discussion but remind the participants of the purpose of preaching which is the proclamation of God’s Word in the teaching of sin and grace, Christ and salvation.*

9. Discuss the meaning of “itching ears” and the direct objects of them as seen in this reading (passions and myths).

*Allow for discussion. Responses will vary.*

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

**READ: Luke 18:1–8**

<sup>1</sup>And he told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart. <sup>2</sup>He said, “In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor respected man. <sup>3</sup>And there was a widow in that city who kept coming to him and saying, ‘Give me justice against my adversary.’ <sup>4</sup>For a while he refused, but afterward he said to himself, ‘Though I neither fear God nor respect man, <sup>5</sup>yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will give her justice, so that she will not beat me down by her continual coming.’” <sup>6</sup>And the Lord said, “Hear what the unrighteous judge says. <sup>7</sup>And will not God give justice to his elect, who cry to him day and

night? Will he delay long over them? <sup>8</sup>I tell you, he will give justice to them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

11. In most recordings of parables, the purpose for telling them is not initially disclosed. Why did Jesus tell this parable?

*According to verse 1, "he told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart." Once again the concern of "prevailing" or "persistence" in the faith seems to be an over-riding theme.*

12. How is the judge's response to the woman's pleas like or unlike that of God?

*Allow for discussion but remind the participants that God first of all desires our prayers (see Ephesians 6:18) and secondly He desires prayer to be continuous and persistent (see I Thess. 5:17)*

- 13 Do you agree or disagree with the statements of God's response in verse 7?

*Allow for discussion. Sometimes it feels and seems like God delays in His response to the needs of His people, but He will respond as He has promised and as He has shown throughout the history of the world.*

- 14 What do you think of the final statement of this reading?

*When Christ returns, we know that there will be many more unbelievers than faithful, but as He promises in Matthew 24:12-13, there will be some faithful who will be present and alive in the end. (see also Matthew 16:27)*

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

## Discipleship Bulletin Blub

How persistent are you in prayer? How prevailing are you in the faith? Jacob proved himself to be one who prevailed, but it was not without the blessing of God. Paul encouraged Timothy to prevail in faith and be persistent in growing in the Word, but that was not without the benefit of the Holy Spirit working through the inspired Word of God. Christ encourages persistence in prayer and prevailing faith in the parable set before us today. As today's disciples, we need Paul's encouragement and the example of Jacob so that we do not lose heart, but continue to prevail in faith through the work of the Holy Spirit and remain persistent in prayer for God's mercy in our lives.

## Discipleship Prayer Thought

Almighty and most merciful God, grant us grace so to prevail in faith and remain persistent in prayer that our lives may be blessed. Fill us with joy and understanding that your response to our pleas may not always be according to our will or our time frame, but according to Your will and Your time frame. Grant us patience and understanding so as to make faithful witness to Your faithfulness to us. Lord in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**