



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-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST - SERIES C

November 6, 2016

From C.P.H. About the Cover: *(Cover pertains to All Saints Sunday)*

First Reading: Exodus 3:1–15

¹Now Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law, Jethro, the priest of Midian, and he led his flock to the west side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. ²And the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush. He looked, and behold, the bush was burning, yet it was not consumed. ³And Moses said, “I will turn aside to see this great sight, why the bush is not burned.” ⁴When the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, “Moses, Moses!” And he said, “Here I am.” ⁵Then he said, “Do not come near; take your sandals off your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.” ⁶And he said, “I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.” And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

⁷Then the LORD said, “I have surely seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters. I know their sufferings, ⁸and I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. ⁹And now, behold, the cry of the people of Israel has come to me, and I have also seen the oppression with which the Egyptians oppress them. ¹⁰Come, I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring my people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt.” ¹¹But Moses said to God, “Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?” ¹²He said, “But I will be with you, and

this shall be the sign for you, that I have sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain."

¹³Then Moses said to God, "If I come to the people of Israel and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?" ¹⁴God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And he said, "Say this to the people of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.'"

¹⁵God also said to Moses, "Say this to the people of Israel, 'The LORD, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you.' This is my name forever, and thus I am to be remembered throughout all generations."

1st Reading Discipleship Notes: Like many, Moses was obviously terrified by an expectation of God to be His servant and free the Israelites in Egypt. Whatever the expectations given us by God, we need not fear them. God is with us. He knows us by name as He knew Moses by name. He has given us His name, the name by which every knee shall bow in heaven and on earth and under the earth and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father. Whatever is before us an expectation of service to God, we can rest assured He will enable us to accomplish His will.

Epistle Reading 2 Thessalonians 2:1–8, 13–17

¹Now concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to him, we ask you, brothers, ²not to be quickly shaken in mind or alarmed, either by a spirit or a spoken word, or a letter seeming to be from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come. ³Let no one deceive you in any way. For that day will not come, unless the rebellion comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, ⁴who opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God. ⁵Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things? ⁶And you know what is restraining him now so that he may be revealed in his time. ⁷For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work. Only he who now restrains it will do so until he is out of the way. ⁸And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will kill with the breath of his mouth and bring to nothing by the appearance of his coming.

¹³But we ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the firstfruits to be saved, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth. ¹⁴To this he called you through our gospel, so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. ¹⁵So then, brothers, stand firm and hold to the traditions that you were taught by us, either by our spoken word or by our letter.

¹⁶Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God our Father, who loved us and gave us eternal comfort and good hope through grace, ¹⁷comfort your hearts and establish them in every good work and word.

Epistle Discipleship Notes: There has always been concern about the end of time. That was obviously a concern among the Thessalonians. It ought to be a concern for the modern believer as well for one reason. That is so that we stand firm in the faith and make every possible effort to make the love of Christ known to the world. Because of the grace of God, we need not fear

that final day, but because of that grace we can be filled with joy and excitement to do whatever is vital and necessary to make the love of Christ known to the world. That includes our service, our offerings, our witness, etc.

Gospel Reading Luke 20:27–40

²⁷There came to [Jesus] some Sadducees, those who deny that there is a resurrection, ²⁸and they asked him a question, saying, "Teacher, Moses wrote for us that if a man's brother dies, having a wife but no children, the man must take the widow and raise up offspring for his brother. ²⁹Now there were seven brothers. The first took a wife, and died without children. ³⁰And the second ³¹and the third took her, and likewise all seven left no children and died. ³²Afterward the woman also died. ³³In the resurrection, therefore, whose wife will the woman be? For the seven had her as wife."

³⁴And Jesus said to them, "The sons of this age marry and are given in marriage, ³⁵but those who are considered worthy to attain to that age and to the resurrection from the dead neither marry nor are given in marriage, ³⁶for they cannot die anymore, because they are equal to angels and are sons of God, being sons of the resurrection. ³⁷But that the dead are raised, even Moses showed, in the passage about the bush, where he calls the Lord the God of Abraham and the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob. ³⁸Now he is not God of the dead, but of the living, for all live to him." ³⁹Then some of the scribes answered, "Teacher, you have spoken well." ⁴⁰For they no longer dared to ask him any question.

Gospel Discipleship Notes: Mankind has always wanted to make God fit into a human box of intelligence and that is simply not the way it is. God's wisdom and ways are far greater than we can even imagine, so to try to fit Him and His wisdom into our ideas of things is meaningless. Jesus proved that once again in this reading. As disciples of Christ in this modern world, we don't have to try to define God's mind. We have His Word. We have His truth. We have the promise of His compassion and His salvation through His Son Jesus Christ and because we have all of this grace we can make known to the world what has been revealed to us and look forward to the glorious resurrection.

Adult/High School Youth Discipleship Bible Study Outline

Read First Reading: Exodus 3:1–15

¹Now Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law, Jethro, the priest of Midian, and he led his flock to the west side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. ²And the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush. He looked, and behold, the bush was burning, yet it was not consumed. ³And Moses said, "I will turn aside to see this great sight, why the bush is not burned." ⁴When the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." ⁵Then he said, "Do not come near; take your sandals off your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." ⁶And he said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

⁷Then the LORD said, "I have surely seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters. I know their sufferings, ⁸and I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. ⁹And now, behold, the cry of the people of Israel has come to me, and I have also seen the oppression with which the Egyptians oppress them. ¹⁰Come, I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring my people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt." ¹¹But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?" ¹²He said, "But I will be with you, and this shall be the sign for you, that I have sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain."

¹³Then Moses said to God, "If I come to the people of Israel and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?" ¹⁴God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And he said, "Say this to the people of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.'"

¹⁵God also said to Moses, "Say this to the people of Israel, 'The LORD, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you.' This is my name forever, and thus I am to be remembered throughout all generations."

1. What does it say about God that He called Moses by name?
2. What does it say about God that He recognized the suffering of His people and wanted to deliver them?
3. God's specific plan was to send Moses to Pharaoh to deliver the people. Why might that not sound like a good idea to Moses?
4. What does God's name say about God?
5. What application from this reading might you make for your life?

Read 2 Thessalonians 2:1–8, 13–17

¹Now concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to him, we ask you, brothers, ²not to be quickly shaken in mind or alarmed, either by a spirit or a

spoken word, or a letter seeming to be from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come. ³Let no one deceive you in any way. For that day will not come, unless the rebellion comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, ⁴who opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God. ⁵Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things? ⁶And you know what is restraining him now so that he may be revealed in his time. ⁷For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work. Only he who now restrains it will do so until he is out of the way. ⁸And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will kill with the breath of his mouth and bring to nothing by the appearance of his coming.

¹³But we ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the firstfruits to be saved, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth. ¹⁴To this he called you through our gospel, so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. ¹⁵So then, brothers, stand firm and hold to the traditions that you were taught by us, either by our spoken word or by our letter.

¹⁶Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God our Father, who loved us and gave us eternal comfort and good hope through grace, ¹⁷comfort your hearts and establish them in every good work and word.

6. What do the first three verses of this reading suggest about what had been happening in Thessalonica?
7. Who was Paul making reference to in verses 3-4 as the “man of lawlessness” and “son of destruction”?
8. What is restraining this powerful personality?
9. What is Paul’s primary message in this reading to the Thessalonians and to us?
10. How might this reading encourage us to live more serious lives of discipleship with regard to our faith?

Read: Luke 20:27–40

²⁷There came to [Jesus] some Sadducees, those who deny that there is a resurrection, ²⁸and they asked him a question, saying, “Teacher, Moses wrote for us that if a man’s brother dies, having a wife but no children, the man must take the widow and raise up offspring for his brother. ²⁹Now there were seven brothers. The first took a wife, and died without children. ³⁰And the second ³¹and the third took her, and likewise all seven left no children and died. ³²Afterward the woman also died. ³³In the resurrection, therefore, whose wife will the woman be? For the seven had her as wife.”

³⁴And Jesus said to them, “The sons of this age marry and are given in marriage, ³⁵but those who are considered worthy to attain to that age and to the resurrection from the dead neither marry nor are given in marriage, ³⁶for they cannot die anymore, because they are equal to angels and are sons of God, being sons of the resurrection. ³⁷But that the dead are raised,

even Moses showed, in the passage about the bush, where he calls the Lord the God of Abraham and the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob. ³⁸Now he is not God of the dead, but of the living, for all live to him." ³⁹Then some of the scribes answered, "Teacher, you have spoken well." ⁴⁰For they no longer dared to ask him any question.

11. Why would those who deny the resurrection have challenged the Lord about the resurrection?
12. What does it mean that in the resurrection there will be those who are "equal to angels"?
13. In his reference to Moses and the Old Testament lesson for today, what does that say about those who die in the faith?
14. What does the fact that some of the scribes appreciated the Savior's answer suggest?
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 First Reading: Exodus 3:1–15

¹Now Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law, Jethro, the priest of Midian, and he led his flock to the west side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. ²And the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush. He looked, and behold, the bush was burning, yet it was not consumed. ³And Moses said, "I will turn aside to see this great sight, why the bush is not burned." ⁴When the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." ⁵Then he said, "Do not come near; take your sandals off your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." ⁶And he said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

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1. What does it say about God that He called Moses by name?

The fact that He called Moses by name shows that God knows us all by name and personally knows and cares for us.

2. What does it say about God that He recognized the suffering of His people and wanted to deliver them?

This shows that God is compassionate and does care for His people. The fact that He desired to deliver them from the bondage of Egypt previews the fact that He desires to deliver all mankind from the bondage of sin, death and the devil.

3. God's specific plan was to send Moses to Pharaoh to deliver the people. Why might that not sound like a good idea to Moses?

Because of his past history with Pharaoh and Egypt, the thought of returning there and facing them was something fearful for Moses. He had fled from Egypt under the threat of death from Pharaoh because he had killed an Egyptian for mistreating a Hebrew individual.

4. What does God's name say about God?

It says that God is eternal for He always is.

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

Read: 2 Thessalonians 2:1–8, 13–17

¹Now concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to him, we ask you, brothers, ²not to be quickly shaken in mind or alarmed, either by a spirit or a spoken word, or a letter seeming to be from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come. ³Let no one deceive you in any way. For that day will not come, unless the rebellion comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, ⁴who opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God. ⁵Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things? ⁶And you know what is restraining him now so that he may be revealed in his time. ⁷For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work. Only he who now restrains it will do so until he is out of the way. ⁸And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will kill with the breath of his mouth and bring to nothing by the appearance of his coming.

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¹⁶Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God our Father, who loved us and gave us eternal comfort and good hope through grace, ¹⁷comfort your hearts and establish them in every good work and word.

6. What do the first three verses of this reading suggest about what had been happening in Thessalonica?

They suggest that someone was trying to teach about the end times and not teaching what has been revealed in Scripture. The same sort of this thing happens today and is Satan's scheme to deceive believers since everyone is interested in this sort of thing.

7. Who was Paul making reference to in verses 3-4 as the "man of lawlessness" and "son of destruction"?

This is a reference to the antichrist, but some theologians point to some Roman leaders who were anxious to persecute Christians.

8. What is restraining this powerful personality?

Only the will and power of God restrains this powerful personality.

9. What is Paul's primary message in this reading to the Thessalonians and to us?

Verse 15 summarizes Paul's primary message in this reading which is to remain steadfast in the faith trusting in the doctrines of Scripture taught to them.

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

READ: Luke 20:27–40

²⁷There came to [Jesus] some Sadducees, those who deny that there is a resurrection, ²⁸and they asked him a question, saying, "Teacher, Moses wrote for us that if a man's brother dies, having a wife but no children, the man must take the widow and raise up offspring for his brother. ²⁹Now there were seven brothers. The first took a wife, and died without children. ³⁰And the second ³¹and the third took her, and likewise all seven left no children and died. ³²Afterward the woman also died. ³³In the resurrection, therefore, whose wife will the woman be? For the seven had her as wife."

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11. Why would those who deny the resurrection have challenged the Lord about the resurrection?

It is common for those that wish to undermine any truth of God to perplex it, and load it with difficulties. So that is what these Sadducees did. They thought they would weaken people's faith in the doctrine of the resurrection, so they put a question upon the supposition of it, which they thought could not be answered either way to satisfaction. In this they were wrong because Jesus spoke and taught with full authority.

12. What does it mean that in the resurrection there will be those who are "equal to angels"?

They shall be companions with the angels, and converse with these spirits that love them dearly. They will be with an innumerable company of angels and live eternally with them.

13 In his reference to Moses and the Old Testament lesson for today, what does that say about those who die in the faith?

It says two things, first that our God is a Living God who is eternal and it says of those who have died in the faith that they also are alive in heaven.

14 What does the fact that some of the scribes appreciated the Savior's answer suggest?

It first of all suggests that they appreciated his answer because they believed in the resurrection and the Savior's response to the question reaffirmed the resurrection and thus put down the Sadducees. But it secondly could suggest that they appreciated the answer because they personally did not have as many issues with the Savior's teachings as did the Pharisees and Sadducees. They may have felt somewhat affirmed by the Savior and could potentially be warmed up to the Savior's teachings.

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

Discipleship Bulletin Blub

God is always with His people. As he was with Moses in His appointment to deliver the Hebrew people from Egypt, He is also with us in the appointment to service in the Church that we are called to accomplish. As He was with the Thessalonians in keeping them steadfast in the faith and in true doctrine, so He is with us in the Church today. As the Savior guided the listeners of the hypothetical question, He guides us yet today. The result of all of this is that as modern disciples of Christ we have an absolute promise and a glorious hope of God presence in our lives now and in eternity. Because of this rich grace, we can confidently serve God in our lives and vocations and we can honor Him with joy and confidence in our hearts.

Discipleship Prayer Thought

Lord, keep us steadfast in Your Word. Guide us in Your truth. Protect Us with Your presence and grant that because of Your rich grace we might honor You confidently and willingly in the manners in which You would have us serve. Lord in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**