



Praying to the Lord of the Harvest, LCMS World Mission, in collaboration with its North American and worldwide partners, will share the Good News of Jesus with 100 million unreached or uncommitted people by the 500th anniversary of the Reformation in 2017.

Session—1 Learn

Memory Verse: Psalm 66:5 (NIV)
"Come and see what God has done,
how awesome his works in man's behalf!"

Connect

Briefly introduce yourselves. If you feel comfortable, share with the group one unique quality or quirk that you have.

Study:

View Video

- 1) Any relationship has as it's foundation the desire to _____ more.
 - a) If a friendship isn't growing it is _____.
 - b) If you aren't remembering, you are _____.

- 2) We can only learn about God as we _____ him speak
 - a) Words are the _____ to the heart
 - b) John 20:30-31 – He inspired the writers of the Bible so that we could _____ him.

- 3) God shares his character with us Exodus 34:6-7
 - a) He is absolutely _____.
 - b) He is ultimately _____ and completely _____.

Learn of Me

1) Luke 24:13-32 describes two disciples learning the big picture of Jesus' resurrection.

Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; but they were kept from recognizing him. He asked them, "What are you discussing together as you walk along?" They stood still, their faces downcast.

2) What emotions do you think the disciples experienced at the death of Jesus? How might the emotions the disciples experienced differ from our emotions at the death of a loved one?

One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, "Are you only a visitor to Jerusalem and do not know the things that have happened there in these days?" "What things?" he asked. "About Jesus of Nazareth," they replied. "He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place. In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning but didn't find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but him they did not see."

3) Did the disciples get the facts straight? If so, why do you think the disciples were still sad? When have been some times when your head and your heart have told you two separate things?

He said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Did not the Christ have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?" And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

4) Why in your opinion didn't Jesus reveal himself right away? What did Jesus do? What does that say about the importance of learning what God has done?

As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus acted as if he were going farther. But they urged him strongly, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. They asked each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?"

5) What specifically led to the disciples "heart burn?" What does that say to us?

Learn Who Matters to God

St. Paul writes, "*I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone—for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.*" (1 Tim. 2:1-4)

1) What are some of the characteristics of the "all people?" Describe the most repulsive person that you've ever met or heard about.

2) Does God want that person in his kingdom?

3) St. Luke records, “*Now the tax collectors and “sinners” were all gathering around to hear him. But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, “This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.”*” (Luke 15:1-2). Who matters to Jesus?

4) Who matters to you but does not know or believe that they matter to God?

5) Would you be willing to pray for them for the next 50 days?

Learn What He Desires

The Lutheran Reformers wrote about Jesus’ desire that all should be saved. “*This Christ calls all sinners to himself and promises them refreshment. He is utterly serious in his desire that all people should come to him and seek help for themselves. He offers himself to them in the Word.*” (Formula of Concord, Epitome, Article XI: Election, p. 517.8)

1) Is there a routine sin that you just can’t seem to overcome? How does that make you feel?

2) St. Paul writes, “*You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God’s wrath through him! For if, when we were God’s enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!*” (Romans 5:6-10). The Gospel is freeing. How does constantly relearning that Jesus routinely forgives us even though we still commit sinful acts free us?

Learn the Secret

1) Describe a time that your life was calm at one moment and chaotic the next. Do you think growth in the Christian faith makes life any less chaotic?

2) St. Paul writes, “*Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.*” (Romans 5:1-5). Describe a time when you have emerged stronger as a result of going through a period of trial.

Serve/Reach: Write down one person who seems to be apart from Christ that you will pray for during the 50 Days Ablaze. If you are comfortable revealing that person’s name, share it with the rest of the group so that they may pray for him or her as well.

Offer: As a prayer, sing or say vss 3&5 of Thy Strong Word

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| 3 Thy strong Word bespeaks us righteous;
Bright with Thine own holiness,
Glorious now, we press toward glory,
And our lives our hopes confess.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise to Thee who light dost send!
Alleluia, alleluia!
Alleluia without end! | 5 Give us lips to sing Thy glory,
Tongues Thy mercy to proclaim,
Throats that shout the hope that fills us,
Mouths to speak Thy holy name.
Alleluia, alleluia!
May the light which Thou dost send
Fill our songs with alleluia,
Alleluias without end! |
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For Additional Study

Learn His Word

Who is the person whom you trust the most? How did you learn to trust that person? How can we spend more time with God so that we can become intimate with him?

Learn the Joyful Sound

Jesus tells the parable of the Lost sheep, "*What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open country, and go after the one that is lost, until he finds it? And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost'*" (Luke 15:4-6). What do you think happens in heaven when a "lost sheep" is found? How should that affect our life?

Learn a New Song

What is your favorite hymn or worship song? Why? St. John describes the worship of Jesus in heaven in Rev. 5:9-10,

*"And they sang a new song, saying,
'Worthy are you to take the scroll
and to open its seals,
for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God
from every tribe and language and people and nation,
and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God,
and they shall reign on the earth..'"*

How does our worship on earth imitate worship in heaven?