



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.

EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST - SERIES C
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From C.P.H. About the Cover: Often asked is the question “Who is my neighbor?” The answer is that everyone is our neighbor. So, it is our place to show, by our actions, that we are good neighbors to those who fall upon adversity. We are to care for all people whether they are believers or nonbelievers. All are God’s people and, just like the faithful in Christ, are loved by Him.

First Reading: Leviticus 19:9–18

⁹“When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap your field right up to its edge, neither shall you gather the gleanings after your harvest. ¹⁰And you shall not strip your vineyard bare, neither shall you gather the fallen grapes of your vineyard. You shall leave them for the poor and for the sojourner: I am the LORD your God.

¹¹“You shall not steal; you shall not deal falsely; you shall not lie to one another. ¹²You shall not swear by my name falsely, and so profane the name of your God: I am the LORD.

¹³“You shall not oppress your neighbor or rob him. The wages of a hired servant shall not remain with you all night until the morning. ¹⁴You shall not curse the deaf or put a stumbling block before the blind, but you shall fear your God: I am the LORD.

¹⁵“You shall do no injustice in court. You shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great, but in righteousness shall you judge your neighbor. ¹⁶You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not stand up against the life of your neighbor: I am the LORD.

¹⁷“You shall not hate your brother in your heart, but you shall reason frankly with your neighbor, lest you incur sin because of him. ¹⁸You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD.

1st Reading Discipleship Notes: God is God and there is no God but He and He has some gracious expectations for mankind. They are gracious because they extend kindness and mercy to others. Loving others as we love ourselves included leaving gleanings and fallen grapes for others as God's way of providing for the poor and needy. Not many have vineyards and fields used for gleaning today, but by the grace of God, those who have resources can share with those whose resources are limited. At a time when there are natural disasters in our nation and around the world, to help out in some manner is good and a gracious thing to do and a manner in which God is providing for those in need.

Epistle Reading Colossians 1:1–14

¹Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother,

²To the saints and faithful brothers in Christ at Colossae:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father.

³We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, ⁴since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, ⁵because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. Of this you have heard before in the word of the truth, the gospel, ⁶which has come to you, as indeed in the whole world it is bearing fruit and growing—as it also does among you, since the day you heard it and understood the grace of God in truth, ⁷just as you learned it from Epaphras our beloved fellow servant. He is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf ⁸and has made known to us your love in the Spirit.

⁹And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, ¹⁰so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God. ¹¹May you be strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy, ¹²giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. ¹³He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, ¹⁴in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Epistle Discipleship Notes: Paul witnessed the result of God's Word at work in the lives of the Colossian Christians. They expressed love for all the saints because of the hope laid up for them in heaven. The same is true today. When the Word of God takes root in people's hearts and lives, they too are strengthened with all power to give of themselves in love and service for others and in giving thanks to God who has "qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light" and "delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins."

Gospel Reading: Luke 10:25–37

²⁵And behold, a lawyer stood up to put him to the test, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" ²⁶He said to him, "What is written in the Law? How do you read it?" ²⁷And he answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself." ²⁸And he said to him, "You have answered correctly; do this, and you will live."

²⁹But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" ³⁰Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him and departed, leaving him half dead. ³¹Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. ³²So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, he had compassion. ³⁴He went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he set him on his own animal and brought him to an inn and took care of him. ³⁵And the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, 'Take care of him, and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.' ³⁶Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?" ³⁷He said, "The one who showed him mercy." And Jesus said to him, "You go, and do likewise."

Gospel Discipleship Notes: Christ spoke well and wisely in answering the lawyer in this text in the manner he did. Love God with all your heart, soul and mind and your neighbor as yourself and you will live eternally. Of course you must do so perfectly which means you love even those you deem unlovable. How was it that the Samaritan could do so? The same way we can do so – by the grace of God. The Samaritan wasn't perfect any more than the lawyer in the reading. We are all sinful and in need of God's grace to express love in any manner. But when by God's grace we do express love for others, God's love is also being expressed.

Adult/High School Youth Discipleship Bible Study Outline

Read **Leviticus 19:9–18**

⁹“When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap your field right up to its edge, neither shall you gather the gleanings after your harvest. ¹⁰And you shall not strip your vineyard bare, neither shall you gather the fallen grapes of your vineyard. You shall leave them for the poor and for the sojourner: I am the LORD your God.

¹¹“You shall not steal; you shall not deal falsely; you shall not lie to one another. ¹²You shall not swear by my name falsely, and so profane the name of your God: I am the LORD.

¹³“You shall not oppress your neighbor or rob him. The wages of a hired servant shall not remain with you all night until the morning. ¹⁴You shall not curse the deaf or put a stumbling block before the blind, but you shall fear your God: I am the LORD.

¹⁵“You shall do no injustice in court. You shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great, but in righteousness shall you judge your neighbor. ¹⁶You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not stand up against the life of your neighbor: I am the LORD.

¹⁷“You shall not hate your brother in your heart, but you shall reason frankly with your neighbor, lest you incur sin because of him. ¹⁸You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD.

1. What was the purpose of the statement, “I am the LORD,” after each statute?
2. In what way does each of these statutes relate to the second table of the Law?
3. Why are the terms of “brother” and “neighbor” used in the same concern of verse 17?
4. How is the fear of God in verse 14 necessary for the fulfillment of any statute?
5. What application from this reading might you make for your life?

Read **Colossians 1:1–14**

¹Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother,

²To the saints and faithful brothers in Christ at Colossae:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father.

³We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, ⁴since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, ⁵because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. Of this you have heard before in the word of the truth, the gospel, ⁶which has come to you, as indeed in the whole world it is bearing fruit and growing—as it also does among you, since the day you heard it and understood the grace of God in truth, ⁷just as you learned it from Epaphras our beloved fellow servant. He is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf ⁸and has made known to us your love in the Spirit.

⁹And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, ¹⁰so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God. ¹¹May you be strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy, ¹²giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the

inheritance of the saints in light. ¹³He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, ¹⁴in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

6. Paul often referred to the “saints” in various places, but why does he also refer to the Colossians as “faithful brothers” in verse 2?
7. How did that faithfulness show itself according to Paul?
8. How were the Colossians empowered to show a life of faithfulness according to verses 5-6?
9. How are the things for which Paul prayed for the Colossians much like the Lord’s prayer?
10. What accompanies faithfulness according to verse 12?
11. How might this reading encourage us to live more serious lives of discipleship with regard to our faith?

Read: Luke 10:25–37

²⁵And behold, a lawyer stood up to put him to the test, saying, “Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?” ²⁶He said to him, “What is written in the Law? How do you read it?” ²⁷And he answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself.” ²⁸And he said to him, “You have answered correctly; do this, and you will live.”

²⁹But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” ³⁰Jesus replied, “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him and departed, leaving him half dead. ³¹Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. ³²So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, he had compassion. ³⁴He went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he set him on his own animal and brought him to an inn and took care of him. ³⁵And the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, ‘Take care of him, and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.’ ³⁶Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?” ³⁷He said, “The one who showed him mercy.” And Jesus said to him, “You go, and do likewise.”

12. The lawyer was undoubtedly well versed in the Law of God and properly interpreted it. Why did Jesus say “do this and you will live?”
13. The parable is often referred to as the “GOOD” Samaritan. Why is this a misnomer?
14. What would be necessary in the Samaritan’s heart for him to do as he did for the man?
15. Where does that come from?

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 Leviticus 19:9–18

⁹“When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap your field right up to its edge, neither shall you gather the gleanings after your harvest. ¹⁰And you shall not strip your vineyard bare, neither shall you gather the fallen grapes of your vineyard. You shall leave them for the poor and for the sojourner: I am the LORD your God.

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1. What was the purpose of the statement, “I am the LORD,” after each statute?

These were consistent reminders that these statutes or regulations were not merely human suggestions, but they were divinely ordained for the good of man in dealing with human need and human relationships.

2. In what way does each of these statutes relate to the second table of the Law?

Each statute pertains to the relationship we have with our fellowman which is the second table of the Law which is “you shall love your neighbor as yourself”.

3. Why are the terms of “brother” and “neighbor” used in the same concern of verse 17?

This is because they are one in the same. As Christian saints we are all brothers and sisters in the Lord and we are each other's neighbor.

4. How is the fear of God in verse 14 necessary for the fulfillment of any statute?

It is as our catechism states, “The fulfillment of all commandments must flow from the fear and love of God.” Ps. 111:10 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; all who follow His precepts have good understanding. To Him belongs eternal praise.

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

Read: Colossians 1:1–14

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6. Paul often referred to the “saints” in various places, but why does he also refer to the Colossians as “faithful brothers” in verse 2?

See number 3 above

7. How did that faithfulness show itself according to Paul?

It was manifested in the reports of love they had for all the saints which was bearing fruit in every good work.

8. How were the Colossians empowered to show a life of faithfulness according to verses 5-6?

They were empowered through God’s Word as the grace of God moved them in the way of truth.

9. How are the things for which Paul prayed for the Colossians much like the Lord’s prayer?

The Lord’s Prayer contains seven petitions, six of which are for spiritual blessings and deliverance. Paul’s prayer was also for spiritual blessings and deliverance for the Colossians.

10. What accompanies faithfulness according to verse 12?

Thanksgiving accompanies faithfulness as we look forward to the inheritance of the saints in heaven.

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

READ: Luke 10:25–37

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12. The lawyer was undoubtedly well versed in the Law of God and properly interpreted it. Why did Jesus say “do this and you will live?”

Salvation depends on the perfection of the Law. To say, “do this and you will live” Jesus was challenging the lawyer to reflect on his own life and to see if he thought of himself as perfect according to the Law or if he would see the need for there to be a Savior whose perfection would be a substitutionary sacrifice for each and every sinful man.

13. The parable is often referred to as the “GOOD” Samaritan. Why is this a misnomer?

No one is good. We are all filled with sin and in need of God’s mercy. What the Samaritan did was good as are many of the things we do out of mercy and compassion for others. But no one is good in and of themselves. We must rely on the mercy of God to make us good and holy in God’s sight.

14. What would be necessary in the Samaritan’s heart for him to do as he did for the man?

Compassion would be necessary for someone to do for others as you would have them do unto you. Such compassion comes solely as a gift of God’s grace in our hearts through faith.

15. Where does that come from?

It comes solely through the work of the Holy Spirit who works such grace and mercy in our hearts. This then becomes a fruit of the Holy Spirit’s work in us.

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

Discipleship Bulletin Blub

What causes someone to care for others in a loving and merciful manner? It is none other than the work of God's grace in our hearts that moves us to do for others and to care for them in a God pleasing manner. Today reading point to this great truth and encourage us as disciples of Christ to employ His grace in our lives in such a way as to both serve our brother/neighbor/fellow saint and honor God with our lives.

Discipleship Prayer Thought

Dear God our heavenly Father, You have given us statutes by which to live and to show our care and concern for others. These things are good for all mankind. Help us by the power of the Holy Spirit to do for others as we would have them do for us. Make us true disciples who desire to serve the needs, not of ourselves alone, but for those who are our brothers, our neighbors and our fellow saints in Christ. Lord in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**