



**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.

**FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST - SERIES C**  
**AUGUST 28, 2016**

**From C.P.H. About the Cover:** Of all the positive personality traits, perhaps humility is spoken of the least. And humility may be the most difficult to acquire. After all, we want others to know about and appreciate our accomplishments. However, when it comes to faith and salvation, we have no merit. Jesus, and He alone, has earned our salvation through His suffering and death. Thanks and honor be given to Jesus!

**First Reading: Proverbs 25:2–10**

<sup>2</sup>It is the glory of God to conceal things, but the glory of kings is to search things out.

<sup>3</sup>As the heavens for height, and the earth for depth, so the heart of kings is unsearchable.

<sup>4</sup>Take away the dross from the silver, and the smith has material for a vessel;

<sup>5</sup>take away the wicked from the presence of the king, and his throne will be established in righteousness.

<sup>6</sup>Do not put yourself forward in the king’s presence or stand in the place of the great,

<sup>7</sup>for it is better to be told, “Come up here,” than to be put lower in the presence of a noble.

What your eyes have seen <sup>8</sup>do not hastily bring into court, for what will you do in the end, when your neighbor puts you to shame?

<sup>9</sup>Argue your case with your neighbor himself, and do not reveal another’s secret,

<sup>10</sup>lest he who hears you bring shame upon you, and your ill repute have no end.

1<sup>st</sup> Reading Discipleship Notes: King Solomon is attributed for writing most of the proverbs and in this case it was he who did so but they were compiled by the men of Hezekiah, King of Judah. That probably is not all that significant, but when you read the words of this lesson and attribute the words to someone as powerful and as significant as King Solomon suggests that he chose not to desire a sense of pride, but extolled humility. In truth, the kingdom cannot be effectively experienced without a proper sense of humility. As a disciple comes into the presence of the King and eternal God in worship, the first thing we do is to humble ourselves and confess our sins. In like manner, whenever we represent the Lord in our witness of His goodness and mercy, we do so humbly, not with an arrogance or a sense of superiority. And because of God's grace at work in us, this is possible and it is further most effective for kingdom work.

**Epistle Reading            Hebrews 13:1–17**

<sup>1</sup>Let brotherly love continue. <sup>2</sup>Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares. <sup>3</sup>Remember those who are in prison, as though in prison with them, and those who are mistreated, since you also are in the body. <sup>4</sup>Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous. <sup>5</sup>Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." <sup>6</sup>So we can confidently say,

"The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?"

<sup>7</sup>Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. <sup>8</sup>Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. <sup>9</sup>Do not be led away by diverse and strange teachings, for it is good for the heart to be strengthened by grace, not by foods, which have not benefited those devoted to them. <sup>10</sup>We have an altar from which those who serve the tent have no right to eat. <sup>11</sup>For the bodies of those animals whose blood is brought into the holy places by the high priest as a sacrifice for sin are burned outside the camp. <sup>12</sup>So Jesus also suffered outside the gate in order to sanctify the people through his own blood. <sup>13</sup>Therefore let us go to him outside the camp and bear the reproach he endured. <sup>14</sup>For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city that is to come. <sup>15</sup>Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name. <sup>16</sup>Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

<sup>17</sup>Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.

Epistle Discipleship Notes: This reading is filled with encouraging applications for the life of the disciple. But all of them grow out of the first verse, to let brotherly love continue. When that happens, the matter of hospitality happens, the prisoner can be visited, marriage is held in honor, etc. These are all the byproducts of the Holy Spirit's work in the heart of the believer. They can all be done to God's glory and the benefit of others with joy and confidence of God's blessing.

**Gospel Reading:****Luke 14:1-14**

<sup>1</sup>One Sabbath, when [Jesus] went to dine at the house of a ruler of the Pharisees, they were watching him carefully. <sup>2</sup>And behold, there was a man before him who had dropsy. <sup>3</sup>And Jesus responded to the lawyers and Pharisees, saying, "Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath, or not?" <sup>4</sup>But they remained silent. Then he took him and healed him and sent him away. <sup>5</sup>And he said to them, "Which of you, having a son or an ox that has fallen into a well on a Sabbath day, will not immediately pull him out?" <sup>6</sup>And they could not reply to these things.

<sup>7</sup>Now he told a parable to those who were invited, when he noticed how they chose the places of honor, saying to them, <sup>8</sup>"When you are invited by someone to a wedding feast, do not sit down in a place of honor, lest someone more distinguished than you be invited by him, <sup>9</sup>and he who invited you both will come and say to you, 'Give your place to this person,' and then you will begin with shame to take the lowest place. <sup>10</sup>But when you are invited, go and sit in the lowest place, so that when your host comes he may say to you, 'Friend, move up higher.' Then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at table with you. <sup>11</sup>For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

<sup>12</sup>He said also to the man who had invited him, "When you give a dinner or a banquet, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, lest they also invite you in return and you be repaid. <sup>13</sup>But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, <sup>14</sup>and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you. You will be repaid at the resurrection of the just."

Gospel Discipleship Notes: These words of Jesus remind us of the same primary concern of the previous readings which is to live in humility and in love for fellow man. Jesus lays this before those who were invited to a dinner in the home of a ruler of the Pharisees. His words must have stung most of the people there that day, but they sting us as well because often we do for others only so that they might do for us in return. But God gives us His grace that we might humbly and lovingly represent Him to others in the manner in which we treat them. This is a wonderful thing.

## Adult/High School Youth Discipleship Bible Study Outline

### Read Proverbs 25:2-10

<sup>2</sup>It is the glory of God to conceal things, but the glory of kings is to search things out.

<sup>3</sup>As the heavens for height, and the earth for depth, so the heart of kings is unsearchable.

<sup>4</sup>Take away the dross from the silver, and the smith has material for a vessel;

<sup>5</sup>take away the wicked from the presence of the king, and his throne will be established in righteousness.

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What your eyes have seen <sup>8</sup>do not hastily bring into court, for what will you do in the end, when your neighbor puts you to shame?

<sup>9</sup>Argue your case with your neighbor himself, and do not reveal another's secret,

<sup>10</sup>lest he who hears you bring shame upon you, and your ill repute have no end.

1. What does it mean that, "*It is the glory of God to conceal things*"?
2. Why is the heart of kings unsearchable?
3. What is Solomon making reference to according to verses 6-7?
4. How are the words of wisdom in verses 8-10 something we can put into action as disciples of Christ?
5. What application from this reading might you make for your life?

### Read Hebrews 13:1-17

<sup>1</sup>Let brotherly love continue. <sup>2</sup>Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares. <sup>3</sup>Remember those who are in prison, as though in prison with them, and those who are mistreated, since you also are in the body. <sup>4</sup>Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous. <sup>5</sup>Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." <sup>6</sup>So we can confidently say,

"The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?"

<sup>7</sup>Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. <sup>8</sup>Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. <sup>9</sup>Do not be led away by diverse and strange teachings, for it is good for the heart to be strengthened by grace, not by foods, which have not benefited those devoted to them. <sup>10</sup>We have an altar from which those who serve the tent have no right to eat. <sup>11</sup>For the bodies of those animals whose blood is brought into the holy places by the high priest as a sacrifice for sin are burned outside the camp. <sup>12</sup>So Jesus also suffered outside the gate in order to sanctify the people through his own blood. <sup>13</sup>Therefore let us go to him outside the camp and bear the

reproach he endured. <sup>14</sup>For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city that is to come. <sup>15</sup>Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name. <sup>16</sup>Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

<sup>17</sup>Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.

6. What does it mean to let brotherly love continue and how is that the overall theme of this reading?
7. Discuss what verse 5 means to you.
8. What is meant by remembering your leaders in the faith who spoke the word of God?
9. Why is it important that Jesus Christ is the same for all time and how ought that impact the world today?
10. How might this reading encourage us to live more serious lives of discipleship with regard to our faith?

**Read: Luke 14:1–14**

<sup>1</sup>One Sabbath, when [Jesus] went to dine at the house of a ruler of the Pharisees, they were watching him carefully. <sup>2</sup>And behold, there was a man before him who had dropsy. <sup>3</sup>And Jesus responded to the lawyers and Pharisees, saying, "Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath, or not?" <sup>4</sup>But they remained silent. Then he took him and healed him and sent him away. <sup>5</sup>And he said to them, "Which of you, having a son or an ox that has fallen into a well on a Sabbath day, will not immediately pull him out?" <sup>6</sup>And they could not reply to these things.

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<sup>12</sup>He said also to the man who had invited him, "When you give a dinner or a banquet, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, lest they also invite you in return and you be repaid. <sup>13</sup>But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, <sup>14</sup>and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you. You will be repaid at the resurrection of the just."

11. Why would the leaders of the Pharisees not answer the Savior's question about whether it would be lawful to heal on the Sabbath?
12. Why could the leaders of the Jewish people not reply to Jesus' explanation?
13. What was the point of the parable that Jesus spoke?
14. In verse 13 Jesus talked about a repayment for charitable living which would happen in the resurrection. How is this contrary to our confidence in the Gospel for the resurrection to eternal life?
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 Proverbs 25:2-10

- <sup>2</sup>It is the glory of God to conceal things, but the glory of kings is to search things out.  
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<sup>9</sup>Argue your case with your neighbor himself, and do not reveal another's secret,  
<sup>10</sup>lest he who hears you bring shame upon you, and your ill repute have no end.

1. What does it mean that, "It is the glory of God to conceal things"?

*That which is the chief glory of God is his mysteriousness, the unfathomable character of his nature and attributes and doings. The more we search into these matters, the more complete we find our ignorance to be; our human faculties are utterly unable to comprehend the infinite mind and nature of God; they can embrace merely what God chooses to reveal. "Secret things belong to the Lord our God" (Deuteronomy 29:29)*

2. Why is the heart of kings unsearchable?

*Just as you can never rise to the height of the heavens, or as you can never penetrate to the immeasurable depth of the earth, so you can never fathom the heart of a king, and can never find out what he really thinks and intends (compare: Job 11:8).*

3. What is Solomon making reference to according to verses 6-7?

*This is a call to humility for all people not unlike the words of Jesus in the Gospel reading for today.*

4. How are the words of wisdom in verses 8-10 something we can put into action as disciples of Christ?

*Answers will vary.*

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

### Read: Hebrews 13:1-17

<sup>1</sup>Let brotherly love continue. <sup>2</sup>Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares. <sup>3</sup>Remember those who are in prison, as though in prison with them, and those who are mistreated, since you also are in the body. <sup>4</sup>Let marriage

be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous. <sup>5</sup>Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." <sup>6</sup>So we can confidently say,

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<sup>17</sup>Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.

6. What does it mean to let brotherly love continue and how is that the overall theme of this reading?

*Brotherly love is carried out in any number of ways but in each of the examples that the writer of Hebrews offers in this reading, brotherly love is necessary to carry them out.*

7. Discuss what verse 5 means to you.

*Answers will vary. But try to help the participants focus on the promise of the Lord's help and constant presence in our lives.*

8. What is meant by remembering your leaders in the faith who spoke the word of God?

*This was likely a reference to departed leaders who had died as martyrs, and hence, having a particular association to them in the issue of their lives. The remembrance of the saints is intended to be an encouragement in our lives to the manner in which we ought to live as disciples of Christ.*

9. Why is it important that Jesus Christ is the same for all time and how ought that impact the world today?

*God is changeless and so is His Word. This means that what was ungodly in the past, still is. That is in spite of the fact that the world wishes to change the way it views God's will. It has ramifications in our culture about such things as same sex marriage, LGBT rights, Biblically established roles in the church, etc.*

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

**READ: Luke 14:1-14**

<sup>1</sup>One Sabbath, when [Jesus] went to dine at the house of a ruler of the Pharisees, they were watching him carefully. <sup>2</sup>And behold, there was a man before him who had dropsy. <sup>3</sup>And Jesus responded to the lawyers and Pharisees, saying, "Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath, or not?" <sup>4</sup>But they remained silent. Then he took him and healed him and sent him away. <sup>5</sup>And he said to them, "Which of you, having a son or an ox that has fallen into a well on a Sabbath day, will not immediately pull him out?" <sup>6</sup>And they could not reply to these things.

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11. Why would the leaders of the Pharisees not answer the Savior's question about whether it would be lawful to heal on the Sabbath?

*What could they say? If they had pressed the absurd restrictions with which they hedged round the Sabbath day themselves having provided a feast on the day of rest, they felt they would be crushed by one of the Master's deep and powerful arguments. They had hoped he would have acted on the impulse of the moment, and healed the sufferer or else failed; but his calm question confused them. With one of his majestic exercises of Divine power the disease was cured in a moment, and then, with quiet crushing contempt, the Physician passed into the Rabbi, and to the awe-struck guests he put a question about the ox that had fallen into a well.*

12. Why could the leaders of the Jewish people not reply to Jesus' explanation?

*They were struck by the Law which they claimed to uphold completely, but the logic of the Lord caused them to realize they would indeed break the Law for one of their animals, and in this case Jesus was willing to break the Law for the sake of a human being. He was proving that the fulfillment of the Law is one of Love.*

13. What was the point of the parable that Jesus spoke?

*Jesus was reaffirming the truth that Solomon spoke in the Old Testament reading for today. Humility is a virtue of a godly person.*

14. In verse 13 Jesus talked about a repayment for charitable living which would happen in the resurrection. How is this contrary to our confidence in the Gospel for the resurrection to eternal life?

*There will be a resurrection of the just which is a gift of God's grace through His gift of faith to us. There is a state of happiness reserved for them in the other world; and we may be sure that the charitable will be remembered in the resurrection of the just. Works of charity perhaps may not be rewarded in this world, for the things of this world are not the best things, but they shall not lose their reward; they shall be recompensed in the resurrection. The resurrection will not be a result of what we do in this life, however, but a result of our confidence in God's mercy for us in Christ Jesus. That is the "resurrection of the just."*

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

## Discipleship Bulletin Blub

God desires certain behaviors in His people. One behavioral expectation is that of humility. That quality happens to be one of the most important personality matters that means the most when dealing with the Lord and with our fellow man. By God's grace we humble ourselves before God, and by God's grace we humble ourselves before others. In doing so, we are far more capable of communicating God's love and mercy in this world. Pray for this gift in your life that it might be used to God's glory and to the welfare of the kingdom as we relate to others.

## Discipleship Prayer Thought

Almighty and Most merciful God, grant us Your grace so to live in a humbleness of heart so that we might come into Your presence appropriately and live in this world in such a way as to make Your love known to others. Grant us grace not to appear arrogant or uncaring, but merciful and compassionate toward others as You are toward us. In this, help us to be the disciples we are called to be through faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. Lord in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**