

6/8/25
Pentecost
For Group Meetings from June 1st – June 7th

OUR MISSION: As a missional congregation we *celebrate* Christ's presence, *invite* people into a growing relationship with Jesus, and *equip* them to *serve* in a broken world.

Prayer of the Day: God our creator, the resurrection of your Son offers life to all the peoples of earth. By your Holy Spirit, kindle in us the fire of your love, empowering our lives for service and our tongues for praise, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

BIBLICAL EQUIPPING TOGETHER

Share: How did last week's scripture (Luke 24:44-53) work in your life this week?

Mission:

- What was most satisfying about your ministry last week?
- Where do you see God at work?
- How did you participate in God's missional activity?
- How did inviting go last Sunday?

Hear: John 14:8-17, 25-27

Explore Questions: (Use these or develop your own.)

1. What is the role of the Holy Spirit according to this text?
2. Why does Jesus say the world can't accept the Holy Spirit?
3. What does Jesus say about his relationship with the Holy Spirit and the Father?

Connect Questions: (Use these or develop your own.)

1. Where do you need to experience the Spirit's help, peace, or guidance this week?
2. Which of Jesus commands do you find most challenging to put into practice?
3. What "greater works" do you feel called to in the near future?

Memorize this verse: "But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you." (John 14:26) Who has been an advocate for you recently? For whom have you been an advocate?

BIBLICAL EQUIPPING APART:

Obey: During this week follow through on your intentions.

Meditate: Meditate on Psalm 104:24-34, 35b. How does this speak into your life?

Reflect: What have I learned in my week of living with this text? What can I share with my group when we next meet?

Notes for ChristCare leaders:

In this week's text, Jesus makes an astounding promise to his disciples. He says that even if they have a hard time believing what he says based on his words alone, at least they can believe it because of the works they've seen him do. And then he goes on to say, "Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these." In other words, we who believe in Jesus will do even greater works than he! Feeding, preaching, healing, giving life to the dead. Maybe the important question isn't, "did you hear that?", but rather, "do you believe it?" I'll just confess that I regularly do not. It seems too astounding, too far-fetched, too much beyond my knowledge or experience. After all, Jesus did some pretty incredible stuff. But sometimes, aided by the Advocate Jesus promises, I do see it. I see the continuing story started by the saints that have come before us and continued by the saints among us now through sharing their faith, living with confidence, claiming the power of God in their lives, reaching out in mercy and love to those around them, and more. I see the ways the Church continues to be created anew by the Spirit. And the more I name this, the more I see it and the easier it gets to name and then to see and so on and so on.

And when I start to feel the story a little too far-fetched or beyond my knowledge, I am reminded of the context of this text from John's gospel. This is the night before Jesus' crucifixion in John's story, and Jesus has just told his disciples that he would be leaving them. And Philip is worried, anxious, perhaps afraid. And so he says, "Lord, just show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." Now, we are so used to referring to God in parental terms that it may be hard for us to realize the audacity of Philip's request. Keep in mind that God was considered so awesome, so wholly and completely other from humanity, that pious Jews like Philip wouldn't even speak the divine name of God aloud, and yet in this scene Philip is asking to see God. Why? Because he's afraid and wants comfort and assurance and security. Instead of certainty, Jesus offers Philip himself: "Whoever has seen me, has seen the Father." Jesus comes in order that we might know that God is love, that God's love is big enough for everything and the whole world, and that God loved God's people and world so much that God would go to any length – even to the point of dying alone on the cross – so that we would know God's love, perceive how much God loves us, and be emboldened to live with courage and hope. And it's the work of the Holy Spirit to come along side of us whenever we are tempted to forget these things and root us again in this confidence. And this confidence allows us to do some pretty incredible work in our communities and in the world.

Thanks be to God,

Pastor Thadd (tbook@desertcross.org)

Traditional version:

Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come,
thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us
from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power,
And the glory, forever and ever. Amen

Contemporary version:

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,
your will be done on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those
Who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial
And deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the
power, and the glory are yours,
Now and forever. Amen