

7/6/25  
4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
For Group Meetings from June 29<sup>th</sup> – July 5<sup>th</sup>

**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:** O God, the Father of our Lord Jesus, you are the city that shelters us, the mother who comforts us. With your Spirit accompany us on our life's journey, that we may spread your peace in all the world, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

**BIBLICAL EQUIPPING TOGETHER**

**Share:** How did last week's scripture (John 21:15-19) 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:** Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

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

1. What clues in the text reveal that the disciples' mission is a matter of real urgency?
2. How does Jesus express in verses 3-9 that peace is at the heart of his message?
3. What is the invitation and warning found in the message that the disciples are sent out with?

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

1. Who have been important partners for you in your life of faith?
2. What are some things that compete with God for your attention?
3. Have you ever felt unwelcome or rejected when living out your faith? How did you respond?

**Memorize this verse:** "Whoever listens to you listens to me, and whoever rejects you rejects me, and whoever rejects me rejects the one who sent me." (Luke 10:16) What voice or voices help you listen to Jesus?

**BIBLICAL EQUIPPING APART:**

**Obey:** During this week follow through on your intentions.

**Meditate:** Meditate on Psalm 66:1-9. 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:

You cannot do this alone. Notice that Jesus sent out the disciples in pairs. Why? With two, there is always someone to be encouraging if one of the pair is discouraged, to keep faith if one is dispirited, and to carry on when one feels tempted to quit. This discipleship thing can be hard, but it's always easier with a companion or a small group. Hello ChristCare groups! What I find particularly amazing about this passage is not the miracles but the willingness to be dependent on others. Think about it: no purse, no bag, no sandals and, importantly, no guarantees about how they will be received. All they have is the promise of Jesus to go with them, to do great things through them, and to bring them home again. I sometimes wonder if we could match the decline of the church to the rise in disposable income in our cultures. There is something about wealth that creates the illusion of independence, that insulates us (at least for a time) from the vicissitudes of life, and that pushes us to imagine that we don't really need God or each other.

A congregation I know decided to emphasize several of these thoughts in an exercise they did a few years ago. A number of members decided not to purchase anything (other than the necessities of food, etc.) for six months. They discovered through this exercise how often they were tempted to buy something they really didn't need, how much they had to give away to others in need from the purchases not made, and how difficult this exercise was to complete absent the fellowship and encouragement of the rest of the group.

Our culture consistently and compellingly suggests that security is found through our possessions, encouraging us to spend, consume, and buy to satisfy any impulse or whim we may have, promising that these purchases will secure for us a sense of well-being. But what if these behaviors only draw us further from God and heighten our sense of insecurity by pushing us to value things rather than people and to look to our possessions for a sense of security rather than to turn to God. Which is why I think Jesus sending the disciples to unfamiliar territory is a good reminder that we are not meant to go through this life alone. To practice relying on each other for help, encouragement and support, and on God through prayer to satisfy our deeper needs. There are few things more satisfying and life giving than sharing with others, giving of our abundance, receiving in our need, all the while being knit more closely together as the Body of Christ.

### Thanks be to God,

Pastor Thadd ([tbook@desertcross.org](mailto:tbook@desertcross.org))

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#### *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