



THE EVERYDAY DISCIPLE

*Following Jesus One
Step at a Time*

THE FALLS
CHURCH
ANGLICAN

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE SECTION

This little guidebook is designed to help you and a friend, or your small group, walk closer with Jesus. It follows The Everyday Disciple sermon series, inviting you to engage specific Bible passages and questions related to each week's sermon.

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THE FALLS CHURCH ANGLICAN

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BEFORE YOU MEET

Listen to the sermon from the relevant Sunday. Pray for your group's time together.

WHEN YOU MEET



Read

Select one person to read the assigned passage(s) aloud.



Reflect

Open the floor for general thoughts or questions about the passage or sermon. Use the discussion questions as a guide for going deeper. The important thing is to prayerfully engage friends around what God may be saying.



Pray

After approximately 30-45 minutes of discussion, shift to a time of prayer, using the format included for each week. If your group is agreeable and the leader has planned for it, consider singing a song together.



Respond

We have not appropriately responded to God's Word until we have reflected on it, prayed it, and then acted upon it. Towards the end of your group time, write down one concrete action that you hope to take in the coming week in response to what you've read, discussed, and prayed. As James writes, "But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves" (James 1:22).



Before Closing the Meeting

Ask if anyone in the group needs help with something in the week ahead. Meeting practical needs is one way we love each other.

WEEK 1: GOSPELED

Saved by grace, today a disciple takes one more step in that grace



READ

Luke 5:1-11; Deuteronomy 7:6-8



REFLECT

Jesus found Peter, called Peter, and died for Peter's sins. If Peter is an example of what it means to be a disciple, then we learn from his life that discipleship is grounded in the initiative and work of God on our behalf. Christians call this grace.

Jesus says, "The kingdom of heaven is at hand. Repent and believe the Gospel" (Mark 1:15). What is the Gospel? We are saved by Jesus—He finds us, calls us, dies for us, and forgives us—, not because of our moral performance, but because of grace. This is the Gospel! We respond to it by turning in repentance away from our old way of life and in faith give ourselves to Jesus.

Quote

The gospel is the announcement that God has reconciled us to Himself by sending His Son Jesus to die as a substitute for our sins, and that all who repent and believe have eternal life in Him. I want you to see the gospel not only as the means by which you get into heaven, but as the driving force behind every single moment of your life.

— J.D. Greear (*Gospel: Recovering the Power that Made Christianity Revolutionary*, B&H Books, 2011)

Questions to think about as a group

- In a sentence or two, how would you define the Gospel?
- In 60 seconds, how would you explain what the Gospel is to someone who never heard it?
- Do you relate to God based on your performance, or based on His grace?
- How might we go deeper into the grace of the Gospel in our daily living?



NOTES



PRAY

Are there specific things members in the group would like prayer for? Take prayer request at this time which can be prayed during the *Supplication* portion below.

Invitation

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:6-7)

Confession

Scriptures teach us that “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble” (1 Peter 5:5). Let us humbly acknowledge our sins against God and our neighbor:

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. Amen.

The Lord’s Prayer

Supplication

Bring specific requests to God The Father, through Jesus Christ The Son, by The Holy Spirit.

Concluding Collect

Almighty God, you gave your only Son to be for us both a sacrifice for sin and an example of godly living: Give us grace thankfully to receive his inestimable benefits, and daily to follow the blessed steps of his most holy life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen. (*Book of Common Prayer*)



RESPOND

What is one step you can take this week towards living out of God's grace?

Memory Verse

“But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit.”
– Titus 3:4

Further Study

- J.D. Greear, *Gospel: Recovering the Power that Made Christianity Revolutionary*. Nashville, TN: B&H Books, 2011



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WEEK 2: FOLLOW

Called by Jesus' voice, today a disciple takes one more step guided by the Divine Word



READ

Luke 6:12-26, 46-49; Psalm 119:105-112



REFLECT

Shortly after calling His first disciples Jesus began to teach them. Two major examples of what he taught come in the Sermon on the Mount (Matt 5-7) and the Sermon on the Plain (Luke 6:20-49). One of the essential features of being Jesus' disciples is sitting under His teaching, hearing and harkening to His voice. A disciple listens to the Lord's voice as revealed through the Word of God.

Quote

That the Holy Scriptures cannot be penetrated by study and talent is most certain. Therefore, your first duty is to begin to pray, and to pray to this effect that if it please God to accomplish something for His glory—not for yours or any other person's—He very graciously grant you a true understanding of His words. For no master of the divine words exists except the Author of these words, as He says: 'They shall be all taught of God' (John 6:45). You must, therefore, completely despair of your own industry and ability and rely solely on the inspiration of the Spirit.

— Martin Luther, *Letter to his Barber, on Prayer*

Questions to think about as a group

- What, or who, are you following?
- Whose voice, or words, sound loudest in your daily living—parents, friends, the news, a podcaster? What most captures your attention each day?
- Does the Word of God shape how you see the world and value things?



NOTES



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Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Supplication

Bring specific requests to God The Father, through Jesus Christ The Son, by The Holy Spirit.

Concluding Collect

Blessed Lord, you have given us your Holy Scriptures for our learning. May we so hear them, read, learn, and take them to heart, that being strengthened and comforted by your holy Word, we may cling to the blessed hope of everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. (*Book of Common Prayer*)



RESPOND

What is one way you could listen more regularly to the voice of God in order to follow him?

Memory Verse

“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.”
– Psalm 119:105

Further Study

- For tips on reading the Bible devotionally, see: www.crossway.org/articles/8-tips-for-engaging-with-your-bible-devotionally
- For recommendations on Bible Reading Plans, see <https://www.tfcanglican.org/rector-blog/2021/1/16/relational-goals-for-2021>
- Peter J. Williams, *Can We Trust the Gospels?* Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2018



Before Closing the Meeting

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WEEK 3: ALL IN

Asked to surrender all, today a disciple takes one more step in commitment to Christ



READ

Luke 14:25-33; Deuteronomy 5:1-7



REFLECT

As Jesus' ministry progresses large crowds of disciples flock to him, but not always because of commitment to who Jesus is, but rather what he might do for them: "A large crowd was following him, because they saw the signs he was doing on the sick" (John 6:2). Jesus often pauses to make plain that the path to joyous eternal life with Him doesn't always run through a valley of immediate ease and blessing. Rather, discipleship requires an utter commitment, even if that means dying for Him.

Quote

When Christ calls a man, he bids him come and die.

– Dietrich Bonhoeffer (*The Cost of Discipleship*)

Questions to think about as a group

- Do you feel you are all in for Christ? If yes, how did that commitment unfold? If no, why not?
- What areas in your life are the hardest to surrender to Jesus?
- In what way might surrendering all to Jesus lead to freedom and joy?



NOTES



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Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. Amen.

The Lord’s Prayer

Supplication:

Bring specific requests to God The Father, through Jesus Christ The Son, by The Holy Spirit.

Concluding Collect

Almighty God, whose Son our Savior Jesus Christ was lifted high upon the Cross that he might draw the whole world to himself: Mercifully grant that we, who glory in the mystery of our redemption, may have grace to take up our cross and follow him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen. (*Book of Common Prayer*)



RESPOND

This week, what is one small step you could take in surrendering a part of your life to Jesus? What is one small step you could take in taking up your cross this week?

Memory Verse

“Jesus said to him, ‘No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.’” – Luke 9:62

Further Study

- Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *The Cost of Discipleship*
- Andrew Murray, *Absolute Surrender: The Blessedness of Forsaking All and Following Christ*



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WEEK 4: DEPENDENCE

Aware of insufficiency, today a disciple takes one more step in dependence on God's power



READ

Luke 11:1-13; Genesis 12:1-9



REFLECT

A disciple must lean upon God—His strength, guidance, and provision. In teaching His disciples to pray (Luke 11:1-4), and concluding that teaching with a promise that the “heavenly Father gives the Holy Spirit to those who ask him” (11:13), Jesus shows us that we depend on God through faith, prayer and the power of the Holy Spirit. This takes practice, but it is the path of strength. It is also the path of joy. As we depend on God, we also draw closer to Him.

Quote

Discipleship is not limited to what you can comprehend—it must transcend all comprehension. Plunge into the deep waters beyond your comprehension, and I will help you to comprehend even as I do.” Bewilderment is the true comprehension. Not to know where you are going is the true knowledge. My comprehension transcends yours. Thus, Abraham went forth from His father and not knowing whither he went. He trusted himself to my knowledge, and cared not for his own, and thus he took the right road and came to his journey’s end. Behold, that is the way of the cross. You cannot find it yourself, so you must let me lead you as though you were a blind man. Wherefore it is not you, no man, no living creature, but I myself, who instruct you by my Word and Spirit in the way you should go. Not the work which you choose, not the suffering you devise, but the road which is clean contrary to all you choose or contrive or desire—that is the road you must take. To that I call you and in that you must be my disciple.

– Martin Luther (cited in Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *The Cost of Discipleship* (New York: Simon & Schuster, 1995), 93)

Questions to think about as a group

- Consider some areas of your life that you worry about often; has relying on your own power and ability been helpful in those areas? What might it look like to depend on God in those areas?
- What role does prayer play in your daily life? Do you experience connection with God?
- Is prayer something we should always enjoy, only do as a discipline, or a little of both?
- What is the relationship between living by faith and praying?
- Jesus tells his disciples to wait until they receive the Holy Spirit before they go out to serve him (Acts 1:8) and Paul says that we live and walk by the Spirit (Galatians 5:16), what does it look like to depend on the Holy Spirit in our everyday lives?



NOTES



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Confession

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Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. Amen.

The Lord’s Prayer

Supplication

Bring specific requests to God The Father, through Jesus Christ The Son, by The Holy Spirit.

Concluding Collect

O God, you know that we are set in the midst of many grave dangers, and because of the frailty of our nature we cannot always stand upright: Grant that your strength and protection may support us in all dangers and carry us through every temptation; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen. (*Book of Common Prayer*)



RESPOND

This week what is one step you can take to lean on God? Do you have a friend who is struggling? Could your encouragement be a way God desires to support them this week?

Memory Verse

“Seek the Lord and his strength; seek his presence continually.” – Psalm 105:4

Further Study

- J. I. Packer, *Praying: Finding Our Way Through Duty to Delight*
- Tim Keller, *Prayer: Experiencing Awe and Intimacy with God*
- John Yates, *How A Man Prays for His Family*



Before Closing the Meeting

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WEEK 5: CHRISTLIKE

Awed by the beauty of His character, today a disciple takes one more step towards being like Jesus



READ

Luke 6:39-45; Exodus 19:1-6



REFLECT

People say imitation is the highest form of flattery. Jesus isn't looking to be flattered. Rather, He teaches that imitation of him is a sign of authentic discipleship: "A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone when he is fully trained will be like his teacher" (Luke 6:40).

We are never fully like Jesus—Divine, paying the penalty for sin, perfectly obeying the Father. However, we are called increasingly to bear a strong resemblance to Jesus, especially in our character. This can be a slow process, and only happens by the inward work of The Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit employs many methods in making us humble, servant-hearted, and full of God-given hope and joy, all things that resemble our Lord. He uses the Word, fellowship, suffering, worship and prayer, to name a few. Diverse though the Spirit's methods are, He always works with the Father's goal in mind, "those whom God foreknew, he also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son" (Rom 8:29).

Quote

Discipleship is developing a personal, lifelong, obedient relationship with Jesus Christ in which He transforms your character into Christlikeness; changes your values to Kingdom values; and involves you in His mission in the home, in the church, and in the world.

— Avery T. Willis, Jr

Questions to think about as a group

- What stories about Jesus capture your attention? What heart qualities about Jesus do they reveal? How might you reflect these?
- Think of one or two people who are very Christlike (people from history or present day). How might considering their lives spur you on to be more Christlike?
- Biographies of Christians can help us become Christlike. Have you read any you'd recommend?



NOTES



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Invitation

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Confession

Scriptures teach us that “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble” (1 Peter 5:5). Let us humbly acknowledge our sins against God and our neighbor:

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Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. Amen.

The Lord’s Prayer

Supplication

Bring specific requests to God The Father, through Jesus Christ The Son, by The Holy Spirit.

Concluding Collect

O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen. (*Book of Common Prayer*)



RESPOND

Consider one characteristic of Jesus that you admire. What is one concrete step you can take this week, dependent on the Holy Spirit, to imitate this?

Memory Verse

“A disciple is not above his or her teacher, but everyone when he or she is fully trained will be like their teacher.”

—Luke 6:40

Further Study

- Jerry Bridges, *The Pursuit of Holiness*. Colorado Springs, CO: Nav Press, 2006



Before Closing the Meeting

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WEEK 6: NOT ALONE

Inspired by companionship of the Twelve, today a disciple takes one more step towards fellowship with another disciple



READ

Luke 10:1-12; Ecclesiastes 4:9-12



REFLECT

Jesus never calls someone to follow him alone. Not only are they united to Him, but also to other disciples. Hence, he sends disciples out in pairs in Luke 10. There are three types of relationships with other disciples we all should desire: (1) A disciple should be following a more spiritually mature disciple. (2) A disciple should be walking alongside a peer. (3) A disciple should be discipling someone younger in the faith.

Quote

Christianity is not for loners or individualists. It is for a people traveling down the narrow path that leads to life. You must follow and you must lead.

– Mark Dever (*Discipling: How to Help Others Follow Jesus*, 13)

Questions to think about as a group

- Do you have one or two Christians who are really involved in your walk with Christ? Or, do you go it alone?
- Can you think of someone who has helped you follow Christ? How did they help you?
- Have you ever helped someone in their Christian walk? How did that make you feel?
- How do we build these discipling relationships? (Some helpful thoughts are found in Garrett Kell's little book, *How Do I Find Someone to Disciple Me?* I highly recommend it!)



NOTES



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Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. Amen.

The Lord’s Prayer

Supplication

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Concluding Collect

O God, you manifest in your servants the signs of your presence: Send forth upon us the Spirit of love, that in companionship with one another your abounding grace may increase among us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.
(Book of Common Prayer)



RESPOND

What is one step you can take this week to draw closer in fellowship with another disciple of Jesus?

Memory Verse

“Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow”.
– Ecclesiastes 4:9-10

Further Study

- Mark Dever, *Discipling: How to Help Others Follow Jesus*
- J. Garrett Kell, *How Do I Find Someone to Disciple Me?*



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WEEK 7: MEMBER

Born again into God's family, today a disciple takes one more step into life within that concrete expression of this family, their local church



READ

John 13:31-35; Psalm 133



REFLECT

Love is proved and made perfect in relationships with others. Jesus calls His followers to a unique type of selfless love—agape. An essential sign of being His disciple is showing this love towards other Christians (Jn 13:31-35).

God's design is for this new love to be witnessed in a local church, becoming the mortar that holds the new stones together (1 Peter 2:5). This is why an essential mark of a disciple is membership in a local church, the concrete commitment to love the believers who live around you.

Quote

Can you imagine if we had a community of people that forgave everybody ... never revenged themselves but only repaid evil with good, and who also were willing to meet people's needs, psychological, social, or economic with extravagant efforts? What if we were a community like that? You know what we'd be? We'd be a church, because that's what the church is.

– Tim Keller

Questions to think about as a group

- If you are a member of The Falls Church Anglican, or another church, what attracted you to commit to membership?
- How does church membership bless you?
- What role does commitment play in love?



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The Lord’s Prayer

Supplication

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Concluding Collect

O Lord, our heavenly Father, keep your household the Church continually in your true religion, that we who trust in the hope of your heavenly grace may always be defended by your mighty power; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. Amen.
(Book of Common Prayer)



RESPOND

If you are a member of a local church, what is one step you can take this week to commit more to your local church?
If you are not a member of a local church, would you pray about this area of life this week?

Memory Verse

“So we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another” – Romans 12:5

Further Study

- Mark Dever and Jamie Dunlap, *The Compelling Community: Where God’s Power Makes a Church Attractive*
- Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *Life Together*



Before Closing the Meeting

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WEEK 8: WITNESS

Sent by Jesus as His witnesses, today a disciple takes one more step towards someone who doesn't yet know Him



READ

Acts 1:1-8; Matthew 28:16-20



REFLECT

Paul writes that “faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God” (Rom 10:7). Jesus sends His disciples into the World to be mouthpieces of that Word, so that others may hear about God’s love for them in Christ Jesus.

For some Christians, sharing their faith is easy. For others, it can be intimidating. We can trust, however, that if Jesus calls us to it He also empowers us for it: “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth” (Acts 1:8).

Quote

Jesus’s final command was not to urge his disciples to armed resistance to Rome, or seek revenge on those who killed him. Rather, Jesus looked at his followers, and told them to make disciples, not just be disciples.

– Mark Dever (*Discipling: How to Help Others Follow Jesus*, 17)

Questions to think about as a group

- How does the idea of sharing the Good News about Jesus make you feel?
- Have you ever shared about Jesus with someone else? If so, how did that go?
- How might we build friendships with those who don’t yet know Christ? How might we gently and thoughtfully share the Gospel in these friendships?
- What role might hospitality play in evangelism?



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Bring specific requests to God The Father, through Jesus Christ The Son, by The Holy Spirit.

Concluding Collect

Almighty God, through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, you revealed the way of eternal life to every race and nation: Pour out this gift anew, that by the preaching of the Gospel your salvation may reach to the ends of the earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen. (*Book of Common Prayer*)



RESPOND

What is one way you could take a step towards someone who does not know Jesus this week?

Memory Verse

“How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!” – Romans 10:15

Further Study

- Isaac Adams, *What If I’m Discouraged in My Evangelism?*
- Rosaria Butterfield, *The Gospel Comes with a House Key*



Before Closing the Meeting

Ask if anyone in the group needs help with something in the week ahead. Meeting practical needs is one way we love each other.

WEEK 9: SALT & LIGHT

Made stewards of God's good gifts, today a disciple takes one more step in securing the flourishing of those around them



READ

Matthew 5:13-16; Jeremiah 29:1-7



REFLECT

Along with sharing the Gospel, Christians are to be a leavening presence that makes the kingdom of humankind around them more like the Kingdom of God. This fulfills the call sounding early in the Bible that humans are to “have dominion over” and “keep and guard” the creation (Genesis 1:26; 2:15).

This leavening happens through godly character, thoughtful work, and the overall witness of our lives. We won't transform the world into heaven prior to Jesus' return, but, we do not pray the Lord's Prayer in vain, “Thy kingdom come Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.” We pray it because we long to see the world around us, from dining rooms to board rooms, be what it was made to be.

Quote

We should not necessarily seek redemption in all our cultural endeavors, but should reflect redemption in everything we do.

– Richard Lints

Questions to think about as a group

- What are some “good things” that both Christians and non-Christians can agree are good?
- How might you engage in a good work in your area this year?
- Could you invite a friend to engage with you?



NOTES



PRAY

Are there specific things members in the group would like prayer for? Take prayer request at this time which can be prayed during the *Supplication* portion below.

Invitation

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:6-7)

Confession

Scriptures teach us that “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble” (1 Peter 5:5). Let us humbly acknowledge our sins against God and our neighbor:

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. Amen.

The Lord’s Prayer

Supplication

Bring specific requests to God The Father, through Jesus Christ The Son, by The Holy Spirit.

Concluding Collect

O God, your unfailing providence sustains the world we live in and the life we live: Watch over those, both night and day, who work while others sleep, and grant that we may never forget that our common life depends upon each other’s toil; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (*Book of Common Prayer*)



RESPOND

What is one step you could take toward furthering the good of others this week?

Memory Verse

“Seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.” – Jeremiah 29:7

Further Study

- Bruce Ashford, *Every Square Inch: An Introduction to Cultural Engagement*



Before Closing the Meeting

Ask if anyone in the group needs help with something in the week ahead. Meeting practical needs is one way we love each other.

WEEK 10: FAITHFUL

Promised He'll never leave them, today a disciple takes one more step in faithfulness to the Lord



READ

Luke 22:31-34; John 15:1-8



REFLECT

A disciple is less like a firecracker, flashy and attention-grabbing, and more like an old tree, standing steady over the long-haul. Being faithful until the end of life is a sure sign of a disciple.

Peter is an example of faithfulness and a reminder of how complicated faithfulness can look. Ever ambitious, his own promise of fidelity proves imperfect as he betrays Jesus during His trial. However, Jesus had prayed that Peter would return after falling away (Luke 22:31-34). And Jesus himself sees to it that Peter does return. After His resurrection, Jesus finds Peter on a shoreline, and as was the case in their first meeting, wins His friend's heart with eyes full of grace and mercy (John 21:15-19).

The wonderful biblical truth is that our faithfulness is supported and made possible by God's faithfulness to us, "Never will I leave you or forsake you" (Hebrews 13:5). In His promise and power we stand.

Quote

May God never abandon me.

– Blaise Pascal (His final words before dying)

Poem

*He giveth more grace as our burdens grow greater,
He sendeth more strength as our labors increase;
To added afflictions He addeth His mercy,
To multiplied trials he multiplies peace.
When we have exhausted our store of endurance,*

*When our strength has failed ere the day is half done,
When we reach the end of our hoarded resources
Our Father's full giving is only begun.
His love has no limits, His grace has no measure,
His power no boundary known unto men;
For out of His infinite riches in Jesus
He giveth, and giveth, and giveth again.*

– Annie Flint

Questions to think about as a group

- Who are some faithful saints that have touched your own life? How was faithfulness displayed in their lives?
- What might threaten your faithfulness—your loyalty to Christ—in days ahead? Maybe a land mine? Maybe a steady drifting away?
- How might the presence of other disciples alongside you buttress your own faithfulness?
- How does God's strength and faithfulness towards you, encourage your faithfulness to Him?



NOTES



PRAY

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Invitation

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:6-7)

Confession

Scriptures teach us that “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble” (1 Peter 5:5). Let us humbly acknowledge our sins against God and our neighbor:

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. Amen.

The Lord’s Prayer

Supplication

Bring specific requests to God The Father, through Jesus Christ The Son, by The Holy Spirit.

Concluding Collect

Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know your Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leads to eternal glory; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen. (*Book of Common Prayer*)



RESPOND

This week, think of one thing that will help ensure that you are faithfully following Jesus one year from now? Then take a step in putting this into practice.

Memory Verse

“Behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”
– Matthew 28:20b

Further Study

- Scot McKnight, *A Long Faithfulness: The Case for Christian Perseverance*. (Colorado Springs, CO: Patheos Press, 2013).



Before Closing the Meeting

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