



Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)

LAITY SUNDAY 2015

*"This, then, is how you should pray:
"Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.*

Give us today our daily bread.

*And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.
Jesus said to them, "Very truly I tell you, it is not
Moses who has given you the bread from heaven, but it is
my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven.*

"Give us this day our daily Bread..." Solid Food

*For the bread of God is the bread that
comes down from heaven and gives
life to the world."*

"Sir," they said, "always give us this bread."

*Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of
life.*

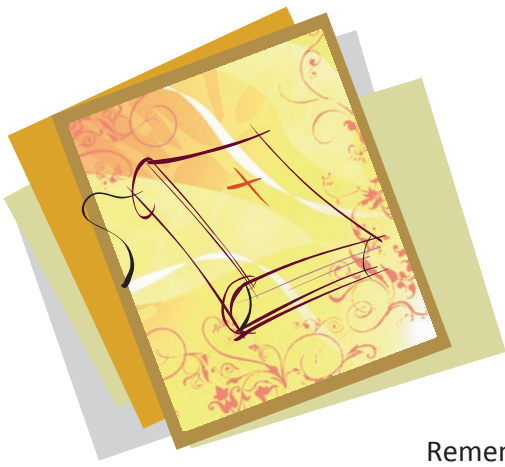
*Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and
whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.*



Bites from the Bible

When it comes to the Bible, there is so much to marvel and to learn. There are miracles of many kinds that are performed by Jesus and some by the apostles (*when they believed*). We have heard stories; some we know well and others we only remember them as we were told as children. So what does it all mean? Jesus knew, even then, that some would immediately understand the critical need to know and others would ponder over parables. He expresses this in **Matthew 13:13-15 (CEV)** when He says: *"I use stories when I speak to them because when they look, they cannot see, and when they listen, they cannot hear or understand. So God's promise came true, just as the prophet Isaiah had*

said, (and he then goes on to quote the prophecy written by Isaiah hundreds of years before) "These people will listen and listen, but never understand. They will look and look, but never see. All of them have stubborn minds! Their ears are stopped up, and their eyes are covered. They cannot see or hear or understand. If they could, they would turn to me, and I would heal them." The 2015 Laity is designed with the hopes of making each of us hungry for greater understanding. The hope is that we, as followers of Jesus Christ, grow in our personal understanding of the message of the Bible so that when we look we can see and when we listen we understand.



Overview

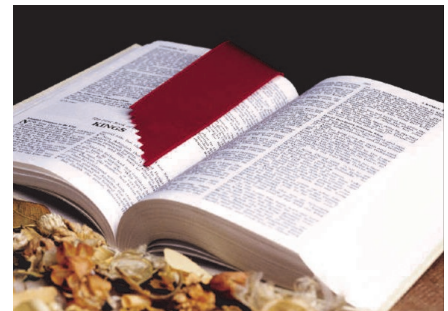
Remembering the first people of the first century church, after the resurrection, leaving his followers still with many questions and waiting, though he left them with instructions.

At that time and still today, we sometimes forget that the intention is for us to follow the instructions of Christ. Even the apostles were given instructions to dig for the true meaning in everything... even in a reference to bread, as you will see in this passage at Matthew 16:5-12 that has a sub-topic in the NCV—**Guard Against Wrong Teachings:**

Jesus' followers went across the lake, but they had forgotten to bring bread. Jesus said to them, "Be careful! Beware of the yeast of the Pharisees and the Sadducees." His followers discussed the meaning of this, saying, "He said this because we forgot to bring bread." Knowing what they were talking about, Jesus asked them, "Why are you talking about not having bread? Your faith is small. Do you still not understand? Remember the five loaves of bread that fed the five thousand? And remember that you filled many baskets with the leftovers? Or the seven loaves of bread that fed the four thousand and the many baskets you filled then also? I was not talking to you about bread. Why don't you understand that? I am telling you to beware of the yeast of the Pharisees and the

Sadducees." Then the followers understood that Jesus was not telling them to beware of the yeast used in bread but to beware of the teaching of the Pharisees and the Sadducees.

The suggestion to the apostles was that their misunderstanding was because they had not taken time to search, to



understand the true meaning of the message.

We are still called to be good stewards of the information and instructions given to us by Jesus Christ. As Disciples of Christ, we are to be obedient followers as we read and search the scriptures for the truth and direction that is written in "The Word" — The Bible

The objective and goal of the 2015 Laity Sunday curriculum is to give you bits and bites of the truth we find in the scriptures. The hopeful intent is to make you "hungry" for more. That would be; more information, greater understanding and more insight on ways to incorporate and design our lives to be true examples of the one we follow: Jesus Christ.

"I was not talking to you about bread. Why don't you understand that?"

Instructions: Bites from the Bible

The laity of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) are always involved in the functions of the church. From teaching Sunday school to preparing a fellowship gathering, the laity is generally involved. Laity Sunday, however, is a time when the lay people of the church pause to consider their gifts and are intentional in offering these gifts in worship and in other ways on this designated Sunday. As Disciples of Christ, we proclaim that we are followers and strive to use the examples and instructions that Christ has provided for us. We can each, regardless of age, make our own unique contributions to proclaim our positions as Christ's followers on laity Sunday and every day. Though we often lean on our Pastor (Shepherd) to be our spiritual leader, as the priesthood of all believers (1 Peter 2:9-10), we too can take time to prepare and participate in the worship of God.

On occasion you may hear the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) referred to as "**The Priesthood of all Believers**." This is a phrase that is not likely to be found in the standard dictionary, but it is important to understand how it relates to being Disciple and a lay person. Consider this passage from 1 Peter 2:9-10:



But you are a chosen people, royal priests, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession. You were chosen to tell about the wonderful acts of God, who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.¹⁰ At one time you were not a people, but now you are God's people. In the past you had never received mercy, but now you have received God's mercy.

1 Peter 2:9-10

So, how can **The Priesthood of All Believers** be defined simply? Effectively, each person, young and old, who understands that God is the source of all things and that through Christ we have a direct connection to God. It is then, each person's **individual** responsibility to read and study the Bible **asking for God's wisdom in understanding** as the stories, instruction, and examples unfold. It is each person's responsibility to identify the gifts given to them by God as they work to glorify God in all they do. Support in each person's study and personal spiritual growth can be enhanced through group study, community worship and praise, and other ways of service as Christ demonstrated in His love of all people. It is important to understand that each person has been given gifts that are to be used in one's efforts to glorify God in all things.

Hebrews 7:24-25



You were chosen to tell about the wonderful acts of God, who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

1 Peter 2:9



Options: A Version Right for You

As you grow in your understanding of the Bible, it is good to look at different versions to find one or more that will help you understand the message. Some bibles are translated based on the meaning of each word and others are more of a paraphrase where the general concept of the passage is translated. It is important to know the difference, or to compare for understanding

James 1 New Century Version (NCV)

¹ From James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ.

To all of God's people who are scattered everywhere in the world:

Greetings.

Faith and Wisdom

² My brothers and sisters, when you have many kinds of troubles, you should be full of joy, ³ because you know that these troubles test your faith, and this will give you patience. ⁴ Let your patience show itself perfectly in what you do. Then you will be perfect and complete and will have everything you need. ⁵ But if any of you needs wisdom, you should ask God for it. He is generous to everyone and will give you wisdom without criticizing you.

⁶ But when you ask God, you must believe and not doubt. Anyone who doubts is like a wave in the sea, blown up and down by the wind. ⁷⁻⁸ Such doubters are thinking two different things at the same time, and they cannot decide about anything they do. They should not think they will receive anything from the Lord.

True Riches

⁹ Believers who are poor should take pride that God has made them spiritually rich. ¹⁰ Those who are rich should take pride that God has shown them that they are spiritually poor. The rich will die like a wild flower in the grass.

¹¹ The sun rises with burning heat and dries up the plants. The flower falls off, and its beauty is gone. In the same way the rich will die while they are still taking care of business.

Temptation Is Not from God

¹² When people are tempted and still continue strong, they should be happy. After they have proved their faith, God will reward them with life forever. God promised this to all those who love him. ¹³ When people are tempted, they should not say, "God is tempting me." Evil cannot tempt God, and God himself does not tempt anyone.

¹⁴ But people are tempted when their own evil desire leads them away and traps them. ¹⁵ This desire leads to sin, and then the sin grows and brings death.

¹⁶ My dear brothers and sisters, do not be fooled about this. ¹⁷ Every good action and every perfect gift is from God. These good gifts come down from the Creator of the

James 1 New Living Translation (NLT)

Greetings from James

¹ This letter is from James, a slave of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ.

I am writing to the "twelve tribes"—Jewish believers scattered abroad.

Greetings!

Faith and Endurance

² Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles of any kind come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy.

³ For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. ⁴ So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing.

⁵ If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking. ⁶ But when you ask him, be sure that your faith is in God alone. Do not waver, for a person with divided loyalty is as unsettled as a wave of the sea that is blown and tossed by the wind. ⁷ Such people should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. ⁸ Their loyalty is divided between God and the world, and they are unstable in everything they do.

⁹ Believers who are poor have something to boast about, for God has honored them. ¹⁰ And those who are rich should boast that God has humbled them. They will fade away like a little flower in the field. ¹¹ The hot sun rises and the grass withers; the little flower droops and falls, and its beauty fades away. In the same way, the rich will fade away with all of their achievements.

¹² God blesses those who patiently endure testing and temptation. Afterward they will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him. ¹³ And remember, when you are being tempted, do not say, "God is tempting me." God is never tempted to do wrong, and he never tempts anyone else. ¹⁴ Temptation comes from our own desires, which entice us and drag us away.

¹⁵ These desires give birth to sinful actions. And when sin is allowed to grow, it gives birth to death.

¹⁶ So don't be misled, my dear brothers and sisters.

¹⁷ Whatever is good and perfect is a gift coming down to us from God our Father, who created all the lights in the heavens. He never changes or casts a shifting shadow.

sun, moon, and stars, who does not change like their shifting shadows. ¹⁸ God decided to give us life through the word of truth so we might be the most important of all the things he made.

Listening and Obeying

¹⁹ My dear brothers and sisters, always be willing to listen and slow to speak. Do not become angry easily, ²⁰ because anger will not help you live the right kind of life God wants. ²¹ So put out of your life every evil thing and every kind of wrong. Then in gentleness accept God's teaching that is planted in your hearts, which can save you.

²² Do what God's teaching says; when you only listen and do nothing, you are fooling yourselves. ²³ Those who hear God's teaching and do nothing are like people who look at themselves in a mirror. ²⁴ They see their faces and then go away and quickly forget what they looked like. ²⁵ But the truly happy people are those who carefully study God's perfect law that makes people free, and they continue to study it. They do not forget what they heard, but they obey what God's teaching says. Those who do this will be made happy.

The True Way to Worship God

²⁶ People who think they are religious but say things they should not say are just fooling themselves. Their "religion" is worth nothing. ²⁷ Religion that God accepts as pure and without fault is this: caring for orphans or widows who need help, and keeping yourself free from the world's evil influence.

¹⁸ He chose to give birth to us by giving us his true word. And we, out of all creation, became his prized possession.

Listening and Doing

¹⁹ Understand this, my dear brothers and sisters: You must all be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry. ²⁰ Human anger does not produce the righteousness God desires. ²¹ So get rid of all the filth and evil in your lives, and humbly accept the word God has planted in your hearts, for it has the power to save your souls.

²² But don't just listen to God's word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves. ²³ For if you listen to the word and don't obey, it is like glancing at your face in a mirror. ²⁴ You see yourself, walk away, and forget what you look like. ²⁵ But if you look carefully into the perfect law that sets you free, and if you do what it says and don't forget what you heard, then God will bless you for doing it.

²⁶ If you claim to be religious but don't control your tongue, you are fooling yourself, and your religion is worthless. ²⁷ Pure and genuine religion in the sight of God the Father means caring for orphans and widows in their distress and refusing to let the world corrupt you.



The following questions are designed for personal or group study. This passage and the questions can also be selected as Sunday School or Youth Group study curriculum or with Bible study groups. Remember, after you study and have conversation around the selected passage, consider how it might impact our lives today.

Other Resource Options:

Hymn: "Trust and Obey" **Tune:** <https://www.hymnal.net/en/hymn/h/582>

Video URL: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mmGb3zRv6xE>

Reflection Questions—Read the parallel passage on pages 4 and 5 and answer the following questions:

1. When you have many kinds of trouble you should _____.
2. If you need wisdom, what should you do?
3. When you ask God for something, what should you do?
4. When a person is tempted and still remains strong, why should they be happy?
5. In verse 19 it tells you to always be willing to listen. Name at least three other instructions given in the verses that follow.



Perspective: Take Time to Think

Even through the cartoons of life, there can be an important message...



Sometimes we read the wrong book and get the wrong advice.

Jonah 1 New Century Version (NCV)

God Calls and Jonah Runs

The LORD spoke his word to Jonah son of Amittai: "Get up, go to the great city of Nineveh, and preach against it, because I see the evil things they do." But Jonah got up to run away from the LORD by going to Tarshish. He went to the city of Joppa, where he found a ship that was going to the city of Tarshish. Jonah paid for the trip and went aboard, planning to go to Tarshish to run away from the LORD.



Sometimes we have more understanding of the instructions of the secular world and less of the biblical instructions.

Matthew 22:29 New Century Version (NCV)

Jesus answered, "You don't understand, because you don't know what the Scriptures say, and you don't know about the power of God."

Sometimes we just get the story wrong...



Noah and the Ark... Genesis

Genesis 8:5-7 New International Version (NIV)

⁵ The waters continued to recede until the tenth month, and on the first day of the tenth month the tops of the mountains became visible. ⁶ After forty days Noah opened a window he had made in the ark ⁷ and sent out a raven, and it kept flying back and forth until the water had dried up from the earth.

Moses parted the Waters ... Exodus

Exodus 14:21 New International Version (NIV)

Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and all that night the Lord drove the sea back with a strong east wind and turned it into dry land. The waters were divided, ...

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Thanks to Richard Germain (See Matthew 6:3) 01-13-2014

MY LEFT HAND GOT UPSET WITH MY RIGHT
HAND AND MY FACE GOT IN THE WAY

Sometimes we think the praise is for us.

Matthew 6:3-4 New International Version (NIV)

But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

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(See Genesis 3) 12-30-2013

REMEMBER THAT NEW YEAR RESOLUTION YOU
MADE TO TRY NEW THINGS?

*We are to love one another, but we are also
cautioned to be aware.*

Matthew 16:5-12 New Century Version (NCV)

“... I was not talking to you about bread. Why don't you understand that? I am telling you to beware of the yeast of the Pharisees and the Sadducees.” Then the followers understood that Jesus was not telling them to beware of the yeast used in bread but to beware of the teaching of the Pharisees and the Sadducees.

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06-28-2013

PLEASE GIVE ME THE WISDOM ... TO
FIGURE OUT HOW TO HAVE THE STRENGTH
... TO POWER THROUGH UNTIL I AM RICH
AND FAMOUS

*Are you a taker or giver; to the glory of God or to
your own glory? Remember, God is not
Santa Clause.*

1 Peter 2:11-12 New Century Version (NCV)

Live for God

Dear friends, you are like foreigners and strangers in this world. I beg you to avoid the evil things your bodies want to do that fight against your soul. People who do not believe are living all around you and might say that you are doing wrong. Live such good lives that they will see the good things you do and will give glory to God on the day when Christ comes again.



YOU ARE DOING A GREAT JOB OF "WITNESSING", BUT THE IDEA IS THAT YOU "WITNESS TO" PEOPLE

Are you an "encourager" or are you a "judge"?

Matthew 7:3-5 New Century Version (NCV)

"Why do you notice the little piece of dust in your friend's eye, but you don't notice the big piece of wood in your own eye? How can you say to your friend, 'Let me take that little piece of dust out of your eye'? Look at yourself! You still have that big piece of wood in your own eye. You hypocrite! First, take the wood out of your own eye. Then you will see clearly to take the dust out of your friend's eye."



GOT YOUR ATTENTION NOW, DON'T I?

"The Word" is greater than "The Show"

Matthew 23:1-7 New Century Version (NCV)

Jesus Accuses Some Leaders

Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his followers "The teachers of the law and the Pharisees have the authority to tell you what the law of Moses says. So you should obey and follow whatever they tell you, but their lives are not good examples for you to follow. They tell you to do things, but they themselves don't do them. They make strict rules and try to force people to obey them, but they are unwilling to help those who struggle under the weight of their rules. "They do good things so that other people will see them. They enlarge the little boxes holding Scriptures that they wear, and they make their special prayer clothes very long. Those Pharisees and teachers of the law love to have the most important seats at feasts and in the synagogues. They love people to greet them with respect in the market-places, and they love to have people call them 'Teacher.'"

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Reflection Questions—Consider the comics on pages 6 and 7 and answer the following questions:

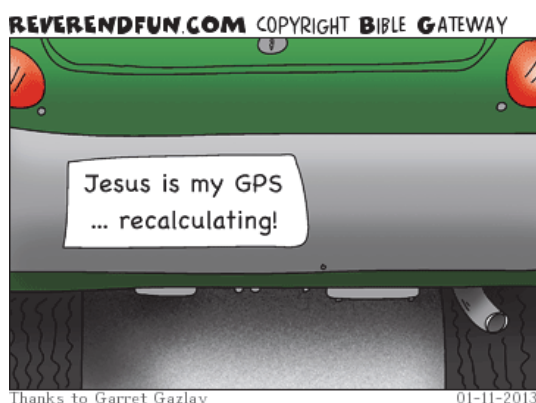
1. Select a cartoon on page 6 that speaks to you. Tell why you selected this one.
2. Is it easier to understand what is familiar in the world than what is familiar in "The Word"? Why?
3. Look at the Noah's Ark cartoon on page 6. Research both stories for new details you may not have known before to add more "solid food" to your understanding of these Bible stories you may have learned as a child.
4. Consider the cartoons on page 7. In your words explain the difference between the dust and the wood.
5. Consider the difference between going to church to be entertained (or having to entertain to get people to come) and worship. Take a moment to capture and write your thoughts and reflections.



Following: Getting to know God “Better”

As followers of Jesus Christ (Disciples of Christ), we need a guide to the promised destination. Sometimes we do get turned-around, and then we must re-calculate.

- Search for bible passages that might indicate ways that Jesus could be your GPS.



Thanks to Garret Gazlay

01-11-2013

The goal of our lives is to build our relationship with God.

- Make a list of ways to build your personal relationship with God.



08-31-2012

I'VE REALLY ENJOYED OUR TIME TOGETHER TODAY ... WANNA MAKE THIS A REGULAR WEEKLY THING?

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Truth: More Than Just History

Before there was the **BIBLE**, as we know it today, the books and passages were written over hundreds... thousands of years as many prophets predicted things that were to come. When the documents were found and compiled, the Bible was created which revealed the many prophecies, including the coming of Jesus Christ.

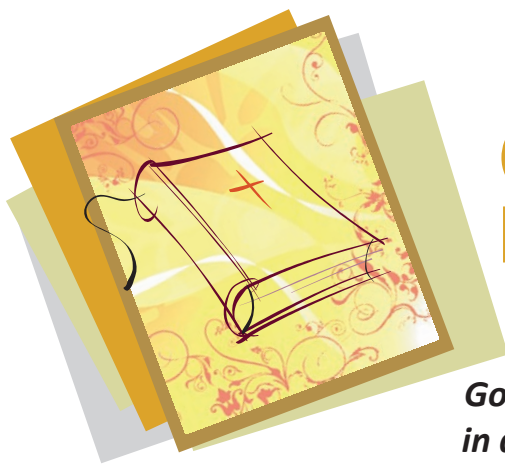


Folio from Papyrus 46, containing 2 Corinthians 11:33-12:9 is one of the oldest original surviving New Testament manuscripts in Greek written on papyrus (paper-like material made from the papyrus plant with its 'most probable date' between 175-225 AD.

Reflection / Questions:

1. Today research is so much faster since information has been catalogued and made accessible to anyone through internet research. "Google" Papyrus 46 (or use another search engine of your choice). What information was available?
2. Check at least three web locations to look for new and exciting information that you did not know. Make a list of those items that most impressed you.

Old Testament (39 books)		New Testament (27 books)	
<i>Pentateuch or The Five Books of Moses</i>	Christian scholars usually refer to the first five books of the Hebrew Bible as the <i>Pentateuch</i> meaning five books, or as the Law, or Law of Moses .	<i>Canonical Gospels</i>	A biblical canon , or canon of scripture , is a list of books considered to be authoritative scripture by a particular religious community.
Genesis		Matthew	
Exodus		Mark	
Leviticus		Luke	
Numbers		John	
Deuteronomy		<i>Apostolic History</i>	The Apostolic Age of the history of Christianity is traditionally the period of the Twelve Apostles, dating from the Great Commission of the Apostles by the resurrected Jesus in Jerusalem c. 33 until the death of the last Apostle, believed to be John the Apostle in Anatolia c. 100.
<i>Historical Books</i>	The historical narratives that begin immediately after the death of Moses with the divine appointment of Joshua.	Acts	
Joshua		<i>Pauline epistles</i>	The Pauline epistles, Epistles of Paul, or Letters of Paul, are the thirteen New Testament books which have the name Paul as the first word, hence claiming authorship by Paul the Apostle.
Judges		Romans	
Ruth		1 Corinthians	
1 Samuel		2 Corinthians	
2 Samuel		Galatians	
1 Kings		Ephesians	
2 Kings		Philippians	
1 Chronicles		Colossians	
2 Chronicles		1 Thessalonians	
Ezra		2 Thessalonians	
Nehemiah		1 Timothy	
Esther		2 Timothy	
<i>Wisdom Books</i>		Titus	
Job		Philemon	
Psalms		<i>General epistles</i>	General epistles are books in the New Testament in the form of letters. They are termed "general" because for the most part their intended audience seems to be Christians in general rather than individual persons or congregations as is the case with the Pauline epistles.
Proverbs	Wisdom books are intended to teach about divinity and virtue generally using traditional story-telling methods. It is also presumed to offer insight and wisdom about nature and reality.	Hebrews	
Ecclesiastes		James	
Song of Solomon		1 Peter	
<i>Major Prophets</i>		2 Peter	
Isaiah	A major prophet is a book that refers to their length of the text and not the importance of the prophet.	1 John	The last book of the New Testament, the revelation which John receives is that of the ultimate victory of good over evil and the end of the present age, and that is the primary meaning of the term
Jeremiah		2 John	
Lamentations		3 John	
Ezekiel		Jude	
Daniel		<i>Apocalypse</i>	
<i>Twelve Minor Prophets</i>	The minor prophets are books that refer to their shorter length of text (compared to the major prophets) and not the importance of the prophet.	Revelation	
Hosea			
Joel			
Amos			
Obadiah			
Jonah			
Micah			
Nahum			
Habakkuk			
Zephaniah			
Haggai			
Zechariah			
Malachi			



Synoptic Gospels

The word “synoptic” could be described as a summary of common stories and ideas. The gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke are referred to as the Synoptic Gospels because they include many of the same stories, often in a similar sequence and in similar wording. The book of John has some shared components, but is most different in style and content.

You will find in this curriculum, only a brief look at each of the four gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John found in the New Testament. Because there are so many amazing things to learn in each gospel which will encourage each one’s spiritual growth; and because this study will not be able to capture all that is offered, each book -brief will be followed with a summary of the contents found in each gospel.

Reflection Questions for the Synoptic Gospels

1. Glance through the summaries of each of the four gospels and find at least two reflections that are in all four. List, in a group by each event, the book, chapter and verses. Read the verses to find the similarities in each.
2. The pictures of each apostle is included only as a reminder that, as we are human with regular lives, so were they. Each image is the artist’s idea of how each one may have looked. Search the four gospels to see if you can find any indications of the personal characteristics of these four apostles.
3. After reviewing each book’s summary, which of the four Synoptic Gospels do you find most interesting?

M^{atthew}



From Easton’s 1897 Bible Dictionary
As expressed in Easton’s Bible Dictionary (1897), they are firm as they

identify Matthew as the author of this book in their statement: “The author of this book was beyond a doubt the Matthew, an apostle of our Lord, whose name it bears. He wrote the Gospel of Christ according to his own plans and aims, and from his own point of view, as did also the other “evangelists.” Many sources agree that it is probably written between the years A.D. 60 and 65. Easton Dictionary points out that this Gospel contains no fewer than sixty-five references to the Old Testament, forty-three of these being direct verbal citations, thus greatly outnum-

bering those found in the other Gospels.

The Christian community to which Matthew belonged, like many 1st century Christians, were still part of the larger Jewish community: hence the designation Jewish-Christian to describe them. The writing was primarily targeting a community of Greek-speaking Jewish Christians located probably in Syria (Antioch, the largest city in Roman Syria and the third-largest in the empire, is often mentioned). Unlike Mark, he never bothers to explain Jewish customs; unlike Luke, who traces Jesus’

ancestry back to Adam, father of the human race, he traces it only to Abraham, father of the Jews.

Detailed content of Matthew

1. Birth Stories

Genealogy (1:1–17)

Nativity (1:18–25)

Biblical Magi (2:1–12)

Flight into Egypt (2:13–20)

Return to Nazareth (2:21–23)

2. Baptism and early ministry

John the Baptist (3:1–12)

Baptism of Jesus (3:13–17)

Temptation of Jesus (4:1–11)

Capernaum (4:12–17)

First disciples of Jesus (4:18–22)

Galilee preaching tour (4:23–25)

3. Sermon on the Mount (5–7)

4. Healing and miracles

Healing many (8:1–17)

Foxes have holes (8:18–20)

Let the dead bury the dead (8:21–22)

Calming the storm (8:23–27)

Gadarene demoniacs (8:28–34)

Healing a paralytic (9:1–8)

Calling of Matthew (9:9–13)

On fasting (9:14–15)

New Wine/ Old Wineskins (9:16–17)

Daughter of Jairus (9:18–26)

Two blind men (9:27–31)

Exorcising a mute (9:32–34)

Good crop / few harvesters (9:35–38)

5. Little Commission (10:1–11:1)

6. Responses to Jesus

Messengers from John the Baptist (11:2–19)

Cursing Chorazin, Bethsaida, and Capernaum (11:20–24)

Praising the Father (11:25–30)

Lord of the Sabbath (12:1–8)

Man with withered hand (12:9–14)

Chosen servant (12:15–21)

Blind-mute man (12:22–28)

Strong man (12:29)

Those not with me are against me (12:30)

Unforgivable sin (12:31–32)

The Tree and its Fruits (12:33–37)

Request for a sign (12:38–42)

Return of the unclean spirit (12:43–45)

Jesus' true relatives (12:46–50)

Parabolic Discourse (13:1–52)

7. Conflicts, rejections, and conferences with disciples

Hometown rejection (13:53–58)

Death of John the Baptist (14:1–12)

Feeding the 5000 (14:13–21)

Walking on water (14:22–33)

Fringe of his cloak heals (14:34–36)

Discourse on Defilement (15:1–20)

Canaanite woman's daughter (15:21–28)

Healing on a mountain (15:29–31)

Feeding the 4000 (15:32–39)

Sign of Jonah (16:1–4)

Beware of yeast (16:5–12)

Peter's confession (16:13–20)

Jesus predicts his death (16:21–28, 17:22–23, 20:17–19)

Transfiguration (17:1–13)

Possessed boy (17:14–21)

Coin in the fish's mouth (17:24–27)

8. Life in the Christian community

The Little Children (18:1–7)

If thy hand offend thee (18:8–9)

The Lost Sheep (18:10–14)

Binding and loosing (18:15–22)

Unmerciful Servant (18:23–35)

9. Journey to Jerusalem

Entering Judea (19:1–2)

Divorce (19:3–9)

Celibacy (19:10–12)

Little Children Blessed (19:13–15)

Jesus and the rich young man (19:16–30)

Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard (20:1–16)

Son of man came to serve (20:20–28)

Blind near Jericho (20:29–34)

10. Jerusalem, cleansing of the temple, debates

Triumphal entry into Jerusalem (21:1–11)

Temple incident (21:12–17)

Cursing the fig tree (21:18–22)

Authority questioned (21:23–27)

The Two Sons, The Wicked Husbandman, Parable of the Wedding Feast (21:28–22:14)

Render unto Caesar... (22:15–22)

Resurrection of the Dead (22:23–33)

Great Commandment (22:34–40)

Is the Messiah the son of David? (22:41–46)

11. Woes of the Pharisees (23:1–39)

12. Judgment day

Little Apocalypse (24)

Parables of the Ten Virgins, Talents (25:1–30)

Judgment of the Nations (25:31–46)

13. Trial, crucifixion, resurrection

Plot to kill Jesus (26:1–5)

Anointing of Jesus (26:6–13)

Bargain of Judas (26:14–16)

Last Supper (26:17–30)

Denial of Peter (26:31–35, 69–75)

Agony in the Garden (26:36–46)

Kiss of Judas (26:47–49)

Arrest (26:50–56)

Before the High Priest (26:57–68)

Pilate's court (27:1–2, 11–26)

Death of Judas (27:3–10)

Soldiers mock Jesus (27:27–31)

Simon of Cyrene (27:32)

Crucifixion (27:33–56)

Entombment (27:57–61)

Guarding the tomb (27:62–66, 28:11–15)

Empty tomb (28:1–6)

Appearance to the women (28:7–10)

Great Commission (28:16–20)

Mark

Easton Dictionary also suggests that Mark derived his information mainly from the discourses of Peter and he is often known as "the disciple and interpreter of Peter." As to the time when it was written, the Gospel furnishes us with no definite information. Mark makes no mention of the destruction of Jerusalem, hence it must have been written before that event, and probably about A.D. 63.

The Gospel according to Mark is the second book of the New Testament and the second of the four gospels. Many scholars today now regard it as the earliest of the gospels. Mark tells of the ministry of Jesus from his baptism by John the Baptist to his death and burial and the discovery of the empty tomb – there is no genealogy or birth narrative, nor post-resurrection appearances. It portrays Jesus as a heroic man of action, an exorcist, healer and miracle worker. Jesus is also the son of God, but he keeps his identity secret, concealing it in parables so that even the disciples fail to understand. All this is in keeping with prophecy, which foretold the fate of the messiah as Suffering Servant. The gospel ends, in its original version, with the discovery of the empty tomb, a promise to meet again and instruction to spread the good news of the resurrection.

Detailed Content of Mark

1. Galilean ministry

John the Baptist (1:1–8)
Baptism of Jesus (1:9–11)
Temptation of Jesus (1:12–13)
Good News (1:15)
First disciples (1:16–20)
Capernaum's synagogue (1:21–28)

Peter's mother-in-law (1:29–31)
Exorcising at sunset (1:32–34)
A leper (1:35–45)
A paralytic (2:1–2:12)
Calling of Matthew (2:13–17)
Fasting and wineskins (2:18–22)
Lord of the Sabbath (2:23–28)
Man with withered hand (3:1–6)
Withdrawing to the sea (3:7–3:12)
Commissioning the Twelve (3:13–19)
Blind mute (3:20–26)
Strong man (3:27)
Eternal sin (3:28–30)
Jesus' true relatives (3:31–35)



Parable of the Sower (4:1–9, 13–20)
Purpose of parables (4:10–12, 33–34)
Lamp under a bushel (4:21–23)
Mote and Beam (4:24–25)
Growing seed and Mustard seed (4:26–32)
Calming the storm (4:35–41)
Demon named Legion (5:1–20)
Daughter of Jairus (5:21–43)
Hometown rejection (6:1–6)
Instructions for the Twelve (6:7–13)
Beheading of John (6:14–29)
Feeding the 5000 (6:30–44)
Walking on water (6:45–52)
Fringe of his cloak heals (6:53–56)
Discourse on Defilement (7:1–23)
Canaanite woman's daughter (7:24–30)
Deaf mute (7:31–37)
Feeding the 4000 (8:1–9)
No sign will be given (8:10–21)
Healing with spit (8:22–26)
Peter's confession (8:27–30)
Jesus predicts his death (8:31–33, 9:30–32, 10:32–34)

Instructions for followers (8:34–9:1)
Transfiguration (9:2–13)
Possessed boy (9:14–29)
Teaching in Capernaum (9:33–50)
2. Journey to Jerusalem
Entering Judea and Transjordan (10:1)
On divorce (10:2–12)
Little children (10:13–16)
Rich young man (10:17–31)
Son of man came to serve (10:35–45)
Blind Bartimaeus (10:46–52)
3. Events in Jerusalem
Entering Jerusalem (11:1–11)
Cursing the fig tree (11:12–14, 20–24)
Temple incident (11:15–19)
Prayer for forgiveness (11:25–26)
Authority questioned (11:27–33)
Wicked husbandman (12:1–12)
Render unto Caesar... (12:13–17)
Resurrection of the Dead (12:18–27)
Great Commandment (12:28–34)
Is the Messiah the son of David? (12:35–40)
Widow's mite (12:41–44)
Olivet discourse (13)
Plot to kill Jesus (14:1–2)
Anointing (14:3–9)
Bargain of Judas (14:10–11)
Last Supper (14:12–26)
Denial of Peter (14:27–31, 66–72)
Agony in the Garden (14:32–42)
Kiss of Judas (14:43–45)
Arrest (14:46–52)
Before the High Priest (14:53–65)
Pilate's court (15:1–15)
Soldiers mock Jesus (15:16–20)
Simon of Cyrene (15:21)
Crucifixion (15:22–41)
Entombment (15:42–47)
Empty tomb (16:1–8)
The Longer Ending (16:9–20)
Resurrection appearances (16:9–13)
Great Commission (16:14–18)
Ascension (16:19)
Dispersion of the Apostles (16:20)
Commission (28:16–20)

Luke

The Gospel of Luke is identified in Easton's Bible Dictionary, not only as one of the synoptic gospels,



but also with names acquired over centuries that express its content. "Each writer has some things, both in matter and style, peculiar to himself, yet all three have much in common. Luke's Gospel has been called "the Gospel of the nations, full of mercy and hope, assured to the world by the love of a suffering Savior;" "the Gospel of the saintly life;" "the Gospel for the Greeks; the Gospel of the future; the Gospel of progressive Christianity, of the universality and gratuitousness of the gospel; the historic Gospel; the Gospel of Jesus as the good Physician and the Savior of mankind;" the "Gospel of the Fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man;" "the Gospel of womanhood;" "the Gospel of the outcast, of the Samaritan, the publican, the harlot, and the prodigal;" "the Gospel of tolerance."

Luke was educated, a man of means, probably urban, and was often referred to as "Dr. Luke" or "The Physician." Most experts date the book of Luke around 80-90 AD. Sharing the story of both the birth of John the Baptist and Jesus, the stories move from Galilee to Jerusalem by the close of the book. Luke was written

to be read aloud to a group of Jesus-followers gathered in a house to share the Lord's Supper. The author assumes an educated Greek-speaking audience, but directs his attention to specifically Christian concerns. It was written to encourage faith.

Detailed Content of Luke

1. Formal introduction

To Theophilus (1:1-4)

2. Jesus' birth and boyhood

Zacharias (1:5-25)

Annunciation (1:26-45)

Magnificat (1:46-56)

Nativity of St. John the Baptist (1:57-80)

Benedictus (1:68-79)

Census of Quirinius (2:1-5)

Nativity of Jesus (2:6-7)

Annunciation to the shepherds (2:8-15)

Adoration of the Shepherds (2:16-20)

Circumcision of Jesus (2:21-40)

Nunc dimittis (2:29-32)

Finding in the Temple (2:41-52)

3. Jesus' baptism and temptation

Ministry of John the Baptist (3:1-20)

Baptism (3:21-22)

Genealogy (3:23-38)

Temptation (4:1-13)

4. Jesus' ministry in Galilee

Good News (4:14-15)

Rejection in Nazareth (4:16-30)

Capernaum (4:31-44)

Miraculous catch of fish (5:1-11)

Leper and Paralytic (5:12-26)

Calling of Matthew (5:27-32)

On fasting (5:33-35)

New Wine into Old Wineskins (5:36-39)

Lord of the Sabbath (6:1-5)

Man with withered hand (6:6-11)

Commissioning the Twelve Apostles (6:12-16)

Sermon on the Plain (6:17-49)

Centurion's servant (7:1-10)

Young man from Nain (7:11-17)

Messengers from John the Baptist (7:18-35)

Anointing (7:36-50)

Women companions of Jesus (8:1-3)

Parable of the Sower (8:4-8, 11-15)

Purpose of parables (8:9-10)

The Lamp under a Bushel (8:16-18; 11:33)

Jesus' true relatives (8:19-21)

Calming the storm (8:22-25)

Demon named Legion (8:26-39)

Daughter of Jairus (8:40-56)

Instructions for the Twelve (9:1-6)

Death of John the Baptist (9:7-9)

Feeding of the 5000 (9:10-17)

Peter's confession (9:18-20)

Jesus predicts his death (9:21-27, 44-45; 18:31-34)

Transfiguration (9:28-36)

Possessed boy (9:37-43)

The Little Children (9:46-48)

Those not against are for (9:49-50)

5. Jesus' teaching on the journey to Jerusalem

On the road to Jerusalem (9:51)

Samaritan rejection (9:52-56)

Foxes have holes (9:57-58)

Let the dead bury the dead (9:59-60)

Don't look back (9:61-62)

Commission of the Seventy (10:1-12, 10:16-20)

Cursing Chorazin, Bethsaida, Capernaum (10:13-15)

Praising the Father (10:21-24)

Great Commandment (10:25-28)

Parable of the Good Samaritan (10:29-37)

Visiting Martha and Mary (10:38-42)

Lord's Prayer (11:1-4)

The Friend at Night (11:5-13)

Blind-mute man (11:14-19)

Exorcising by the Finger of God (11:20)

Strong man (11:21-22)

Those not with me are against me (11:23)

Return of the unclean spirit (11:24-26)

Those who hear the word and keep it (11:27-28)

Request for a sign (11:29-32)

Eye and Light (11:34–36)
 Woes of the Pharisees (11:37–54)
 Veiled and Unveiled (12:1–3)
 Whom to fear (12:4–7)
 Unforgivable sin (12:8–12)
 Disputed inheritance (12:13–15)
 The Rich Fool and Birds (12:16–32)
 Sell your possessions (12:33–34)
 Parable of the Faithful Servant (12:35–48)
 Not Peace, but a Sword (12:49–53; 14:25–27)
 Knowing the times (12:54–56)
 Settle with your accuser (12:57–59)
 Tower of Siloam (13:1–5)
 The Barren Fig Tree (13:6–9)
 Infirm woman (13:10–17)
 Parables of Mustard seed and Leaven (13:18–21)
 The Narrow Gate (13:22–30)
 Lament over Jerusalem (13:31–35)
 Man with dropsy (14:1–6)
 Parable of the Wedding Feast, Great banquet, Counting the cost, Lost sheep, Lost coin, Lost son, Unjust steward (14:7–16:13)
 Not one stroke of a letter (16:14–17)
 On divorce (16:18)
 Lazarus and Dives (16:19–31)
 Curse those who set traps (17:1–6)
 The Master and Servant (17:7–10)
 Cleansing ten lepers (17:11–19)
 The Coming Kingdom of God (17:20–37)
 Parables of the Unjust judge, Pharisee and Publican (18:1–14)
 The Little Children (18:15–17)
 Rich Young Man (18:18–30)
 Blind near Jericho (18:35–43)
 Zacchaeus (19:1–9)
 Son of Man came to save (19:10)
 Parable of the Talents (19:11–27)
6. Jesus' Jerusalem conflicts, crucifixion, and resurrection
 Entry into Jerusalem (19:28–44)
 Temple incident (19:45–48)
 Authority questioned (20:1–8)
 The Wicked Husbandman (20:9–19)
 Render unto Caesar... (20:20–26)
 Resurrection of the Dead (20:27–40)
 Is the Messiah the son of David?

(20:41–44)
 Denouncing scribes (20:45–47)
 Lesson of the widow's mite (21:1–4)
 Olivet discourse (21:5–38)
 Plot to kill Jesus (22:1–2)
 Bargain of Judas (22:3–6)
 Last Supper (22:7–23)
 Dispute about Greatness (22:24–30)
 Denial of Peter (22:31–34, 55–62)
 Sell your cloak and buy a sword (22:35–38)
 Agony in the Garden (22:39–46)
 Kiss of Judas (22:47–53)
 Arrest (22:54)
 Guards mock Jesus (22:63–65)
 Before the High Priest (22:66–71)
 Pilate's court (23:1–7, 13–25)
 Jesus at Herod's court (23:8–12)
 Simon of Cyrene (23:26)
 Crucifixion (23:27–49)
 Entombment (23:50–56)
 Empty tomb (24:1–12)
 Resurrection appearances (24:13–43)
 Great Commission (24:44–49)
 Ascension of Jesus (24:50–53)

John

From Easton's perspective, "The peculiarities of this Gospel are the place it gives (1) to the mystical relation of the Son to the Father, and (2) of the Redeemer to believers; (3) the announcement of the Holy Ghost as the Comforter; (4) the prominence



given to love as an element in the Christian character. It was obviously addressed primarily to Christians. It

was probably written at Ephesus, which, after the destruction of Jerusalem (A.D. 70), became the center of Christian life and activity in the East, about A.D. 90."

The gospel identifies its author as "the disciple whom Jesus loved." Although the text does not name this disciple, by the beginning of the 2nd century, a tradition had begun to form which identified him with John the Apostle, one of the Twelve (Jesus' innermost circle).

Detailed Content of John

1. Hymn to the Word

Jesus is the word become flesh [Jn 1:1–18]

2. Book of Signs, Seven Signs

John the Baptist [1:19–28]

Jesus is the Lamb of God [1:29–34]

First disciples of Jesus [1:35–51]

Marriage at Cana: the first sign [2:1–12]

Jesus and the Money Changers [2:13–25]

Nicodemus the Pharisee [3:1–21]

The need to be born again [3:16]

Jesus surpasses John [3:22–4:4]

Samaritan woman at the well: Jesus as the Water of Life [4:5–42]

Healing the royal official's son: the second sign [4:43–54]

Healing the paralytic at Bethesda [5:1–18]

Authority of the Son [5:19–23]

Resurrection of the Dead [5:24–29]

Witnesses to Jesus [5:30–47]

The feeding of the five thousand [6:1–15]

Walking on water [6:16–21]

Bread of Life Discourse [6:22–59]

Last Day [6:39–40][6:44][6:54][11:24][12:48]

Jesus deserted by many disciples [6:60–71]

Feast of Tabernacles [7:1–52]

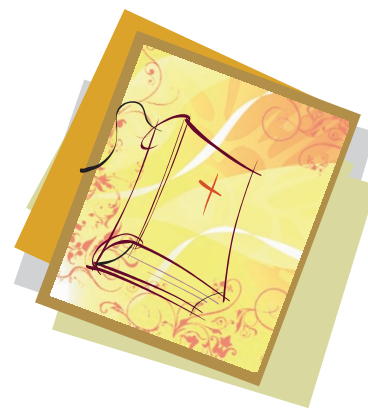
Jesus and the woman taken in adultery [7:53–8:11] (not originally part

of John)
 Jesus is the Light of the World [8:12–20]
 Where I'm going, you can't come [8:21–30]
 The truth will make you free [8:31–38]
 Your father is the Devil [8:39–47]
 Jesus existed before Abraham [8:48–59]
 Healing the blind at birth [9]
 Good Shepherd [10:1–21]
 Jesus rejected by the Jews [10:22–42] [12:37–43]
 Raising of Lazarus [11:1–44]
 Let's return to Judea [11:7]
 Jesus wept [11:35]
 Plot to kill Jesus [11:45–57]
 Mary anoints Jesus [12:1–8]
 Plot to kill Lazarus [12:9–11]
 Triumphal entry into Jerusalem [12:12–19]
 Son of Man [12:20–36]
 Last Judgment [12:44–50]

3. Book of Glory, Last Teachings and Death

Foot Washing [13:1–20]
 Betrayal of Jesus [13:21–30]
 Love one another [13:31–35]
 Peter's denial [13:36–38][18:15–18] [18:25–27]
 Jesus is the only Way to the Father [14:1–14]
 Promise of the Paraclete [14:15–31] [15:18–16:33]
 Jesus is the true vine [15:1–17]
 The World's Hatred [15:18–16:4]
 The Work of the Spirit [16:5–15]
 Sorrow will turn into joy [16:16–24]
 I Have Overcome the World [16:25–33]
 High Priestly Prayer [Jn 17]
 That they all may be one [17:21]
 Arrest[18:1–11]
 Before the High Priests [18:12–14] [18:19–24]
 Pilate's court [18:28–19:16]
 What is truth? [18:38]
 Crown of thorns [19:2–3]
 Ecce Homo [19:5]
 Crucifixion [19:17–37]

Entombment [19:38–42]
 Empty tomb [20:1–10]
 Mary don't hold on to me [20:11–18]
 Great Commission [20:19–23]
 Doubting Thomas [20:24–29]
 Appendix[20:30–31]
 Appendix to the Appendix [21]
 Catch of 153 fish [21:1–14]
 Prophecy of Peter's crucifixion [21:15–19]
 Disciple whom Jesus loved [21:20–25]



Note Space:

Use to record any passages from the gospel summaries that you would like to research later.



Worship Instructions

Though we can “enjoy” a sermon, skit or choir presentation, it is important to let volunteers know that worship is not just a production for the “audience,” but worship is a time to express our adoration and commitment to God and to let God know our love. Worship is a time to give glory and honor to God. It is a time to acknowledge God in our lives. It is also a time to recognize the gifts and blessings God has given to us. Worship is a time to acknowledge the presence of the Holy Spirit and to understand the incredible gift God gave us in our Savior, Jesus Christ. There are many places in the Bible that show expressions of worship.

After you have identified individuals who are willing to participate in Laity Sunday activities, send to each person, an email or postal mailed letter confirmation of their commitment and the date of the first planning meeting a few weeks prior to Laity Sunday. It can be simple and might begin this way:

“Thank you so much for agreeing to participate in this year’s Laity Sunday activities. This congregation has long appreciated the efforts of its participants and worship leaders, bringing a variety of gifts and styles to our times of worship. May God bless you as you share your gifts with us, and to Glorify God! The first meeting of the planning team will be on ____ at ____ o’clock”.

The chair of this committee or planning team or worship leader for this event has two important tasks, and they are to:

1. *Create a timeline that includes all that it takes to plan the Laity worship service using this resource and adjusting it to the needs and personality of your congregation.*
2. *Lead the worship service.*

Take time before all activities to begin with prayer. If there is to be a leadership team, invite everyone to stop for a brief time to come together and pray, asking that God directs the activities of the day. All participants are worship coaches, who are commissioned to encourage the congregation to praise and to honor God. The purpose of worship is not to be entertained, it is to please God.

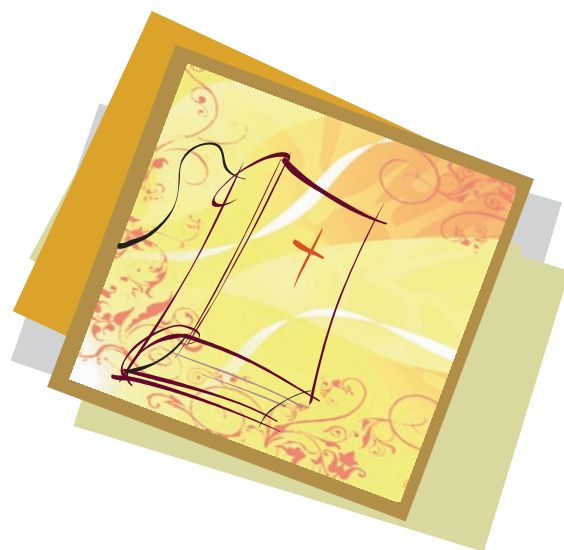
Give the planning team plenty of time to study the theme, scriptures and resources. Name the participants, and prepare for the event. Consider involving the young, the youth and the older members of your congregation. At the first meeting of the Laity Sunday committee, examine all of the material and select what

speaks to the hearts of the group members. You may also select to speak on multiple passages, addressing on how much is still yet to learn from the written word. Once you select the passage, you will be able to complete the message topic for your Laity Sunday service.

The theme of the 2015 curriculum reflects on “Bits and Bites from the Bible”. An effort was made to choose information that is lesser-known; however, each resource includes important information or instruction to the followers of Jesus Christ. You will also find in this curriculum, a brief study of the Synoptic Gospels. This resource can also be used in Sunday school classes and with the youth.

You will find included a prepared service of worship for Laity Sunday. You may extract segments to include in a worship service you have already prepared or use it in its entirety, according to your needs. Remember, this is worship, and it is your time to express your love to God. Note: On Laity Sunday the message can be delivered in many ways. The message can be delivered by one person or can be broken into segments where two or more can participate.

Always encourage time for prayer and discernment that God will direct the design and content of the message. On Laity Sunday, if there are visitors and if the worship service has unusual aspects that might confuse visitors, please be sensitive to the possibility of their misunderstanding and offer an explanation at the beginning of the service. You might say something similar to this:



“Today’s service is a bit different from our usual services in that....”

In an effort to separate the announcements from focused times of prayer and the sharing of the message, it is encouraged that announcements are made at a pre-determined time that is separate from prayerful moments. This might be done very early in the service or just before prayers of the people. You will **not** find “announcements” in the **Order of Worship** so each congregation can determine where their announcements will fit best, based on the needs and traditions of the church. You will want to keep the announcements short.

As the “Sermon/Message” is developed, give presenters an opportunity to share their perspective, include personal stories and prayerfully draw their own conclusions. Consult with the pastor, elders or others “of good spirit” in the congregation if additional help is needed. Test your conclusions against The Word, which is our denominational design as Disciples of Christ.

Worship Service

Call to Worship

Today, we gather to praise, worship and glorify God! We acknowledge God's presence as the Holy Spirit fills this place. We gather in this community, sharing the common thread of disciples, who are followers of Jesus Christ, Your gift to us and our Savior. Open our ears that we may receive the Word and Truth. Open our eyes that we may see you, in the eyes of those who love you; and open our mouths that we have no fear in sharing the good news of Jesus Christ. We come today to worship, sing and hear "The Word." Please, let us learn how to truly be Disciples of Christ. Most Gracious God, let us now worship You.

Hymn *(find the Music Library at the end of this resource for additional selections, verses and hymn choices)*

We Have Come Into This House

by Bruce Ballinger

We have come into His house and gathered in His name to worship Him
We have come into His house and gathered in His name to worship Him
We have come into His house and gathered in His name to worship Him
Worship Him, Christ, the Lord.

So forget about yourself and concentrate on
Him and worship Him
So forget about yourself and concentrate on
Him and worship Him
So forget about yourself and concentrate on
Him and worship Him
Worship Him, Christ, the Lord

Let us lift up holy hands and magnify His
Name and worship Him
Let us lift up holy hands and magnify His
Name and worship Him
Let us lift up holy hands and magnify His
Name and worship Him
Worship Him, Christ, the Lord



Suggested YouTube video options:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZUPIN4uZbnE>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l_2DIM5_ai0

Reader: The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) has designated one Sunday, usually in January, as Laity Sunday, as a reminder that people, beyond clergy, also have gifts to offer in the work of the church. We, as lay people of the church are reminded of the priesthood of all believers as we have come together and offer our own gifts to create a worshipful experience that will acknowledge the love of God and the gift of Jesus Christ, for that is always the most important thing to remember when we gather together. Please join us in this litany that reminds us that God is good and always in charge.

Litany: Psalm 146

Leader: Hallelujah!
O my soul, praise GOD!

People: **All my life long I'll praise GOD,
singing songs to my God as long as I live.**

Leader: Don't put your life in the hands of experts
who know nothing of life, of *salvation* life.
Mere humans don't have what it takes;
when they die, their projects die with them.

People: **Instead, get help from the God of Jacob,
put your hope in GOD and know real blessing!
GOD made sky and soil,
sea and all the fish in it.**

Leader: He always does what he says—
he defends the wronged,
he feeds the hungry.

PEOPLE: **GOD frees prisoners—
he gives sight to the blind,
he lifts up the fallen.**

LEADER: GOD loves good people, protects strangers,
takes the side of orphans and widows,
but makes short work of the wicked.

ALL: **GOD's in charge—*always*.
Zion's God is God for good!
Hallelujah!**

The Message (MSG)



(optional) **Reader:**

It is important for parents, and the larger family (including the people of the church) to teach the scriptures to the children. It should begin when they are very young, as it is written in Proverbs 22:6 (NCV): "Train children to live the right way, and when they are old, they will not stray from it."

It is also written in the 19th chapter of Matthew: "Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.'"

Matthew 19:14 (NIV)

Invitation: Would the children please come forward and join us during this time for children.

Time for Children

(optional if this is normal for your church, or if this will be a teaching, and participation opportunity for children not normally involved in the regular service).

You might prepare for this segment of the service by teaching the children (ahead of time), the song: "I've Got the Joy, Joy, Joy, Joy Down In My Heart". This song teaches the children bits of scripture and to also be joyful through all things. It is based on the fol-

lowing passages: 1 Peter 1:8, Colossians 3:15, John 14:27 and Romans 8:38-39. The words printed in the bulletin will allow the congregation to join in singing the prayer.

“I’ve Got the Joy, Joy, Joy, Joy Down In My Heart”

I’ve got the joy, joy, joy, joy
Down in my heart (where?)
Down in my heart (where?)
Down in my heart
I’ve got the joy, joy, joy, joy
Down in my heart (where?)
Down in my heart to stay

I’ve got the love of Jesus, love of Jesus
Down in my heart (where?)
Down in my heart (where?)
Down in my heart
I’ve got the love of Jesus, love of Jesus
Down in my heart (where?)
Down in my heart to stay

I’ve got the peace that passes understanding
Down in my heart (where?)
Down in my heart (where?)
Down in my heart
I’ve got the peace that passes understanding
Down in my heart (where?)
Down in my heart to stay

I’ve got the wonderful love of my blessed Redeemer
Way down in the depths of my heart (where?)
Down in the depths of my heart (where?)
Down in the depths of my heart
I’ve got the wonderful love of my blessed Redeemer
Way down in the depths of my heart (where?)
Down in the depths of my heart to stay

The following questions are conversation starters during the children’s time. Use all of the questions, or select the one(s) that will speak to the children in your church community. You will also find a couple of YouTube video resources that you can use before, during ,or after the children’s time if your church has the appropriate media resources. Please preview and select those that will blend with your worship style.

Suggested YouTube video options:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z29h7HUcJus> - “I’ve Got the Joy, Joy, Joy, Joy”

Here I am to Worship

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A1-jUA-hnLE> – Two children singing at home

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4dRc0up7Sck> – kids voices and lyrics



Starter Questions:

- ☐ What is joy?
- ☐ Is peace different from joy? If so, how?
- ☐ What can we do to worship God?

(Consider telling one of the familiar Bible stories such as David and Goliath, or Samuel who thought Eli was speaking to him when it was the voice of God), or another.

Talking Points:

- ☐ Consider conversation about the difference between God and Santa Clause, making sure they know there is a difference (such as, they can talk with God anytime etc.). Talk about the expressions in the words to the song or one of the scriptures and allow the children to express what they mean to them. If you have media options, consider using one of the given URL’s as a video resource and then to launch conversation with the children.

Also consider using one of the videos above to encourage conversation.

End the children's time with a prayer (you may even ask if one of the children would like to offer the closing prayer) and sing again a verse or more from the song listed above. You might ask the congregation to join you. Excuse the children after the time is over.

Prayers of the People

Most gracious God, we praise Your name, and know that because you love us in ways we cannot understand, we gratefully receive Your grace, for we know we are not worthy. Through your gift of love through Jesus Christ, we have hope, and a direct channel to your loving kindness. Jesus instructed us to use the power of His name in our petitions to you and for this, and so much more, we love you. Dear God, hear our prayers.

Help us to be mindful that Jesus came into an imperfect world to show us the way, and to help us find hope and to let us know of a most powerful love. Even then, as it is today, there were wars and troubles in the world and a continuous petition for peace.



In our petition this day, we ask that you hold us close to you, and mend the many broken hearts around this nation and world. We engage the Holy Spirit, The Comforter, to be an intercessor on our behalf, when senseless acts of violence and injustice leave us with no words to express our feelings.

We ask that the leaders of this nation and of all the nations of this world, know You, and petition your guidance. We pray for suffering children and families; and for those who are ill and overwhelmed; and for those without employment, and those who are homeless. Please hear our prayers.

We pray now, that you hear our voices as we release to you the names that are on our hearts, that you are present in each of their lives, and mindful of their challenges and victories.

(pause and let the congregants offer names and concerns)

We know you hear our prayers and know our needs. May we now commend them to you. We know you are our refuge and helper, and that you gave to us, the greatest gift of all in our Savior, Jesus Christ in whose name we pray and who taught us to pray in this manner:

(Insert The Lord's Prayer in the translation that is most common in your congregation.)

Amen

Scripture

Matthew 22:29 New Century Version (NCV)

Jesus answered, "You don't understand, because you don't know what the Scriptures say, and you don't know about the power of God."

Suggested YouTube video options for The Lord's Prayer:

Instrumental: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BKaUf7QiU5Y>

Susan Boyle: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-HaEoCqH47Y>

Jackie Evancho: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bSj31u3urvs&list=RD bSj31u3urvs#t=3>

in Korean: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hWf9UKjai1oin>

in French: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MSZXiTjma0o>

in Spanish: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DiMPVnJhAwQ>

The Sermon/ Message

Note: On Laity Sunday the message can be delivered in many ways. If only one person is delivering the message, encourage time for prayer and discernment that God will direct the design and content of the message. Try to identify a theme that speaks to the heart of the one delivering the Laity Sunday message as it encourages the presenter to develop their own story as they share part of their personal spiritual journey. This is an opportunity to inform others of the importance of knowing the word and heeding the instructions.

Optional Sermon (Speaker may also prefer to prepare their own, or modify this one):

Sermon Presenter:

May these words of my mouth and this meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer. *(Pause, look at the congregation, and then continue to read below).*

Optional Sermon:

What is Bread?

1st Reader

“For the bread of God is the Bread that comes down from heaven.”

“Give us this day our daily bread”

“I am the Bread of Life”

These are familiar passages that we hear from time-to-time in our worship services or Sunday school classes. In song, together, we sing: “Break Thou The Bread of Life” or “One Bread, One Body” but what does it all mean? The easy answer is to say that bread is food and you eat it when you are hungry. It is much more complex when Jesus refers to himself as the “Bread of Life”.



This year, the laity study and curriculum took a glimpse at bits and bites from the Bible. With thirty-nine Old Testament books and twenty-seven New Testament books, we today are challenged to consider what we really know of “The Word”. Our lives are so busy that it is possible we have “back-burnered” the most important need to know more about what is written in the Bible. This has been a challenge for believers for centuries. Even Jesus made reference to this in Matthew 22:29 (NCV) - Jesus answered, **“You don’t understand, because you don’t know what the Scriptures say, and you don’t know about the power of God.”**

The question is: Are we still just “milk-fed” or are we being nourished on the solid food of The Word? There is so much that is amazing and informative that is written in the Bible that we would like to share today, but it would take many, many Sundays to do so. For this reason, on this laity Sunday, we want to offer ourselves as encouragers. We want to share a bit, but want you to be hungry for more for we only have time to offer a couple of reflections—just an appetizer.

In life, when our children are young, we try so hard to protect them from many things. We want for them, to be healthy and strong and happy. We make sure their food is nourishing and not spoiled. When they are infants, we start them with milk and slowly move them through baby food, solid vegetables, and continue until they are able to handle spicy foods and even jerky. We want their friends to be of good influence and not to lead them into dangerous places and dangerous lifestyles.

In our spiritual lives, it is much the same. Sunday school gives us small portions of a larger message. An example would be the story of Jonah. Most children could tell you about the “whale” swallowing Jonah and later spitting him up on the

shore. They may not yet know the rest of the story about Nineveh, and why God was displeased. They may not know about Jonah's bad attitude, even after he went to Nineveh. The rest of the story, or digging for deeper meaning is critical to our adult understanding of the message of the Bible.

Sometimes the message is even a challenge to hear, as it may call us to be responsive as well. It may challenge us in our hearts to make changes in our lives that may seem inconvenient or in opposition to our own plans, as was the case with Jonah.



Our western culture has slowly and carefully taught us that we, ourselves, are number-one and encourages us to be self-centered. It has slowly moved away from caring for your neighbor, and others who are not as materially blessed as we are. We have, however seen times when communities, local and larger, come together to assist when there is a natural disaster or critical situation. It is always an amazing thing to see, but soon it fades as the media transitions to another story. Sometimes a community still struggling is quickly forgotten. Historically, however, any community that has struggled will acknowledge that any continuing support generally comes from the church.

Though there are many things to trip and snare a person's life and blur their perspective; I will only mention a couple of things you could identify easily when you get home. I suggest the media controls the minds of many. Take a second look at the television commercials. First, they flash them at you repeating them multiple times over a short period of time. They know it will stick in your mind if they do this. Commercials suggest that you and your life need to be perfect and that whatever they are selling will bring some of this to you. They are feeding us "spoiled food".

Also, if you flip through a half-dozen stations, you will see a great, unprecedented amount of horror and gore with each change of the channel. You can easily find graphic violence with unbelievable detail. Of course sex is included on all levels, even if you are eating a juicy hamburger. Because it has all become so slowly acceptable in a family environment, it has also become the "norm" in the formative years of children as media of all kinds has become their entertainment, babysitter and life instructor. The outcome of this ingestion is also surfacing a new privileged and unsympathetic behavior type in many youth.

And so, what does this have to do with the Bible? There is a tendency, sometimes, to continue to feed the congregation simple versions of a more complex message in the Bible. Like any good TV soap opera, the story unfolds over a long period of time. You know the characters and the antagonist. God's plan began a long time ago and so much was shared through the predictions of the prophets. There is still more to come. There are antagonist, conflict, victory and love... and a very good ending if we are prepared. We do, however have to be informed, and so the gift of "The Word" was given to us for spiritual nourishment.

The Bible holds the key to the answers. The oldest, and most largely sold book of all times, may also be one that is not thoroughly read for all of the information and instructions that it provides as a gift for us.

The Bible also holds cautions as well. Sometimes it is hard to hear or to understand, but taking the time to spend in the word provides you with the spiritual food greater than baby food. As we mentioned earlier, hear this passage again when Jesus speaks of people not knowing because they have not spent time learning the scriptures.

Matthew 22:29 New Century Version (NCV)

Jesus answered, "You don't understand, because you don't know what the Scriptures say, and you don't know about the power of God."

Consider Matthew 24:1-15 (NCV) some phrases may be a bit confusing, but once again, look for the deeper meaning and instruction. It is important, when you see instruction in the Bible that you pay-attention. How might it relate to you. Remember, each person in the Bible had their own instruction. Searching for you instructions, listening and responding is what is important. Listen now, to Matthew 24:1-15:

¹As Jesus left the Temple and was walking away, his followers came up to show him the Temple's buildings.

² Jesus asked, "Do you see all these buildings? I tell you the truth, not one stone will be left on another. Every stone will be thrown down to the ground."

³ Later, as Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives, his followers came to be alone with him. They said, "Tell us, when will these things happen? And what will be the sign that it is time for you to come again and for this age to end?"

⁴ Jesus answered, "Be careful that no one fools you. ⁵ Many will come in my name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and they will fool many people. ⁶ You will hear about wars and stories of wars that are coming, but don't be afraid. These things must happen before the end comes. ⁷ Nations will fight against other nations; kingdoms will fight against other kingdoms. There will be times when there is no food for people to eat, and there will be earthquakes in different places. ⁸ These things are like the first pains when something new is about to be born.

⁹ "Then people will arrest you, hand you over to be hurt, and kill you. They will hate you because you believe in me. ¹⁰ At that time, many will lose their faith, and they will turn against each other and hate each other. ¹¹ Many false prophets will come and cause many people to believe lies. ¹² There will be more and more evil in the world, so most people will stop showing their love for each other. ¹³ But those people who keep their faith until the end will be saved. ¹⁴ The Good News about God's kingdom will be preached in all the world, to every nation. Then the end will come.

¹⁵ "Daniel the prophet spoke about 'a blasphemous object that brings destruction. You will see this standing in the holy place.'" (You who read this should understand what it means.)



We know that God is Love. Just like any parent might say: "wait for the green light", "don't get in the car with strangers", it may not make the child happy, but you know they should learn from your instruction. In the same way in the passage above at verse 4, it is written: "Jesus answered, "Be careful that no one fools you." What does it mean? Who should we be watching out for? These are questions we might ask if we are looking for solid scriptural food.

In the same way, it is hard to read and understand verse 9 above where it is written: "Then people will arrest you, hand you over to be hurt, and kill you. They will hate you because you believe in me." Sometimes we are quick to say "I do not believe that" without digging deeper with a little research of our own. Because of the privilege and freedom we have in this country, we may have to look further to understand this passage as sometimes we forget the Bible is written for all the people of the world. There are religious wars today that are being fought based on ones beliefs. Even most recently, Jonah's tomb (yes the Jonah from the big fish) was bombed. There are many being killed today for their religious beliefs. It is important to learn the word, grow scripturally and become informed so we can identify the truth and to also be able to identify false teachings. To do this, we need the "solid food".

Though the passage above is found in the New Testament of the Bible, Jesus, himself makes reference to Daniel of the Old Testament. I think this is to teach us the relevance and connection of the Old Testament with the New. It is a reminder that things predicted hundreds of years before have come to be true. Remember, our timeline is not God's timeline and everything does not happen overnight - but it has happened and will in the future as is written.

There is one more thing to point out from this passage in Matthew. Jesus said "Do not be Afraid". The truth will set you free from fear, so it is important to look for the instruction and to live our lives for Jesus. We have been instructed to pray without ceasing.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 (CEV): Always be joyful and never stop praying. Whatever happens, keep thanking God because of Jesus Christ. This is what God wants you to do. Don't turn away God's Spirit or ignore prophecies. Put everything to the test. Accept what is good and don't have anything to do with evil.

I pray that God, who gives peace, will make you completely holy. And may your spirit, soul, and body be kept healthy and faultless until our Lord Jesus Christ returns. The one who chose you can be trusted, and he will do this.



You can keep the word on your heart and pray as well by keeping a song on your lips or in your heart. We sing hymns in church, but may not realize we are quoting scripture or singing a prayer.

Let the Words of My Mouth is from Psalm 19:14; I Love you Lord is from Psalm 40:15; Immanuel, Immanuel is from Isaiah 7:14; Hush, Hush, Somebody's Calling My Name is from Isaiah 43:1; Guide me O Thou Great Jehovah is from Isaiah 58:11; O Holy Night is from Luke 2:7; Spirit of the Living God is from John 1:32; Fix Me Jesus is from 1 John 1:9 and All Hail the Power of Jesus Name and Crown Him With Many Crowns is about the future and is found in Revelations 14:14.

There are hundreds more references to scripture in your hymnal alone. Spend a moment just looking through the hymnal and find scriptural passages to the words you sing. I encourage you to find songs that have meaning to you and sing them daily. You can even make one or two songs your mantra, and focus for you to live by. Even then, continue to read, grow in your own knowledge of the scriptures. Let us not hear the words of Christ echoed back to us in the context he referred to hundreds of years ago: "You don't understand, because you don't know what the Scriptures say, and you don't know about the power of God." We want to know... we want solid food.

As disciples, followers of Jesus Christ, we also have been given the great commission which is: Matthew 28:16-20 (NCV)

The eleven followers went to Galilee to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. On the mountain they saw Jesus and worshiped him, but some of them did not believe it was really Jesus. Then Jesus came to them and said, "All power in heaven and on earth is given to me. So go and make followers of all people in the world. Baptize them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach them to obey everything that I have taught you, and I will be with you always, even until the end of this age."

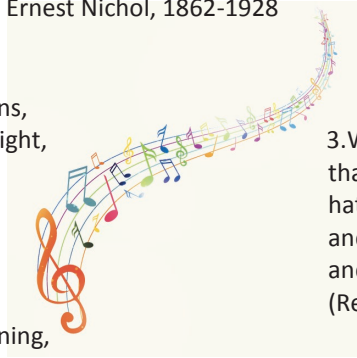
So we as followers—Disciples of Christ, know we already have a very important assignment. We have a story to tell to the nations.

Reader 2

As you just heard, we do have an assignment. It is important to know we must prepare ourselves for that assignment. I propose that you find another song to hold close to your heart. This one might be considered a prayer.

We've a story to tell to the nations

H. Ernest Nichol, 1862-1928



1. We've a story to tell to the nations,
that shall turn their hearts to the right,
a story of truth and mercy,
a story of peace and light,
a story of peace and light.

Refrain:

For the darkness shall turn to dawning,
and the dawning to noonday bright;
and Christ's great kingdom shall come on
earth, the kingdom of love and light.

2. We've a song to be sung to the nations,
that shall lift their hearts to the Lord,
a song that shall conquer evil
and shatter the spear and sword,
and shatter the spear and sword.
(Refrain)

3. We've a message to give to the nations,
that the Lord who reigneth above
hath sent us his Son to save us,
and show us that God is love,
and show us that God is love.
(Refrain)

4. We've a Savior to show to the nations,
who the path of sorrow hath trod,
that all of the world's great peoples
might come to the truth of God,
might come to the truth of God.
(Refrain)

William Longstaff who is the author of the hymn lyrics, "Take Time to be Holy" included an important message that we all must hold close to our hearts. He was born in 1822. I wonder what was going on in his life when he wrote this song. Was he writing a letter to someone or was he just reflecting on the things in his life?

It is interesting because he only wrote the lyrics and another person who was born twenty-four years after Longstaff composed the melody. His name was George Stebbins and he was born in 1846. It is a curious thing to wonder about how he obtained the lyrics... did he find a letter? Did he know Longstaff? However it happened, the message resonated with Stebbins. I can only imagine... as he was composing the tune that he had to speak the words over and over, almost like a prayer.

Today we open the hymnal and sing a song that is already familiar to us as it may have been one heard over many years. Maybe we heard it as a child, sung in church or by our mother or grandmother. Like a TV commercial today, "that tune" gets stuck in your head and it invokes an automatic response, you might just hum along. However... what is the message? Do you hear it, or do the words just roll off your tongue? Because it was written in old English, there may be a few words in the lyrics that are not easily understood. Do you know the meaning of "oft", "abide" or "betide"? Let's revisit the lyrics of this hymn as a letter or poem while changing some of the old words to ones we can understand today:

Take time to be holy and speak often with the Lord. Receive and accept what he has to offer and spend time finding spiritual nourishment from the scriptures. Make friends of other Christians and help those who are weak. In all that you do, don't forget to look for God's blessings.

Even when the world is rushing around you, take time to be holy. Make your own personal time to be alone with Jesus and don't announce what you are doing. If you look to and learn from Jesus, you will become more like him and people will recognize these characteristics in you. Don't try to live your life with your own rules but let the Lord guide you. Whatever happens, joyful or sorrowful, still believe in and follow the Lord, looking to Jesus for your answers and continuing to get nourishment from the Bible.

Take time to be holy and practice calming your soul. Be careful of your thoughts and motives and let the Holy Spirit be in control. The Holy Spirit will lead us to know where there is much love and prepare us for when it is time for us to leave this earth to be with Jesus.

Let us reflect now, on today's message as we calm our spirits and sing this prayerful song as we remain open to what God is calling us to do and be in this world.

Take Time to Be Holy

Text: William D. Longstaff, 1822-1894

Music: George C. Stebbins, 1846-1945

1. Take time to be holy,
speak oft with thy Lord;
abide in him always,
and feed on his word.
Make friends of God's children,
help those who are weak,
forgetting in nothing
his blessing to seek.

2. Take time to be holy,
the world rushes on;
spend much time in secret
with Jesus alone.
By looking to Jesus,
like him thou shalt be;
thy friends in thy conduct
his likeness shall see.

3. Take time to be holy,
let him be thy guide,
and run not before him,
whatever betide.
In joy or in sorrow,
still follow the Lord,
and, looking to Jesus,
still trust in his word.

4. Take time to be holy,
be calm in thy soul,
each thought and each motive
beneath his control.
Thus led by his spirit
to fountains of love,
thou soon shalt be fitted above.



Congregational Response

Please join me in this prayerful song; *I am the Bread of Life*. Please listen to the words anew:

I am the Bread of Life

Suzanne Toolan

I am the bread of life
You who come to Me shall not hunger
And who believe in Me shall not thirst
No one can come to Me
Unless the Father beckons

chorus

And I will raise you up
And I will raise you up
And I will raise you up on the last day

The bread that I will give
Is My flesh for the life of the world
And if you eat of this bread
You shall live forever
You shall live forever

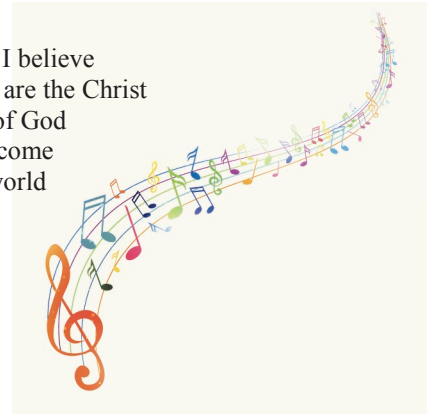
chorus

I am the resurrection
I am the life
If you believe in Me
Even though you die
You shall live forever

chorus

Yes Lord I believe
That You are the Christ
The Son of God
Who has come
Into the world

chorus



Offering

Each day, God gives from His bounty, let us present with joy our offerings of commitment and support for the work of Christ's church.

Offering Hymn

Spirit of God Descend Upon My Heart

Chalice Hymnal — Page 265

Communion Meditation

First Reader Communion

Everything we do in public assembly is a measure of our respect for God. Nothing we do should dishonor God – at church or in our daily lives. Because we do fall short of respecting God in everything we do or think, we are indeed blessed to have Jesus Christ as our Savior.

Second Reader Communion

We are gathered here, in the name of Jesus Christ. In the gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke, there are similar accounts of the time when Jesus sat down with his disciples to share a most important meal. In Matthew, the 26th chapter, beginning with the 26th verse it is written:

Third Reader Communion *(or the Pastor or an Elder if that is the preference of your church)* *Words of Institution*

²⁶ While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body."

²⁷ Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. ²⁸ This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. ²⁹ I tell you, I will not drink from this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."

Second Reader Communion

And in the next verse of the same passage it is also written:

³⁰ When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

First Reader Communion

And so, in the same manner, we will share the cup, and together we will sing a hymn. Please join in this feast, as again, we have heard the story of the gift of the covenant that has been poured out for the forgiveness of our sins.

Communion Hymn

Break Thou The Bread of Life

Chalice Hymnal — Page 321

(Share here the method in which the communion will be distributed.)

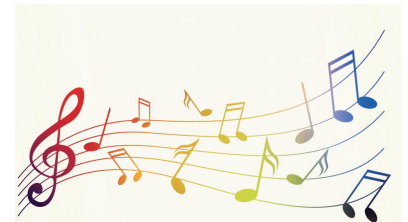
Call to Discipleship

Today you have received "bites" from The Word, The Bible, that reflect the truth and life, demonstrating the love of Jesus Christ. It is hoped that you will hunger for more. If you want to be a follower, believe the good news of God's abounding love in Jesus Christ. Those who desire to make their confession of faith in Christ and to be baptized into his body, or to transfer membership to this congregation, or to renew their Christian commitment, may come forward as the congregation sings a hymn of dedication.

Hymn of Invitation

Living for Jesus

Chalice Hymnal Page 610



Benediction

Now, may you go forth with new dedication to share the good news that is written of **The Bread of Life** that we all might hunger for more. Go, and live for Jesus, a life that is true.

Amen

Closing Hymn

I Serve a Risen Savior

Participant's Ministry	Name/Phone	Commitment Yes /No	Will Attend rehearsal
Event Coordinator/Host(s)			
Children's Study and Coordinator			
Youth's Study and Coordinator			
Prayer/Spiritual Leader			
Worship			
Call to Worship			
Opening Litany			
Reader:			
Time for Children			
Scripture Reader			
Prayers of the People			
The Sermon/ Message Facilitator Reader #1 Reader #2 Reader #3 or group Reader #4 Reader #5 Reader #6—9 – depends on your final design of the service			
Offering			
Call to Discipleship			
Communion Meditation First Reader Second Reader (optional)			
Benediction			
Other:			

Music Library

In the collection of hymns and music that follow are resources to help you prepare for the worship and study experience. When possible, you will find the sheet music for a pianist or organist to accompany the vocals. In the event that is not available, refer to your Chalice Hymnal.



ONLINE

YouTube Video Library

It is exciting to provide website addresses that will direct you to various YouTube sites where you can hear the melodies of selected songs and also view a video. For facilities that have internet and /or video connections, this may expand resources for worship options.



For those facilities that have video resources in the classroom, these may be good teaching resources for Sunday school classes.

The website addresses can be copied into, or cut and pasted into the search engine. A faster connection if you are on a computer with internet access is to click the cursor in the middle of the web address, then hold down the ctrl key, and while holding it down, left-click the mouse once. In most cases, this will take you directly to the internet site.

Please preview these sites first to make sure they are a fit for your congregation's worship style.

I serve a risen Savior

Experience of Christ — As Life

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A Division of Baker Book Publishing House
PO Box 6218, Minneapolis, MN 55462-0218
1-800-541-3911

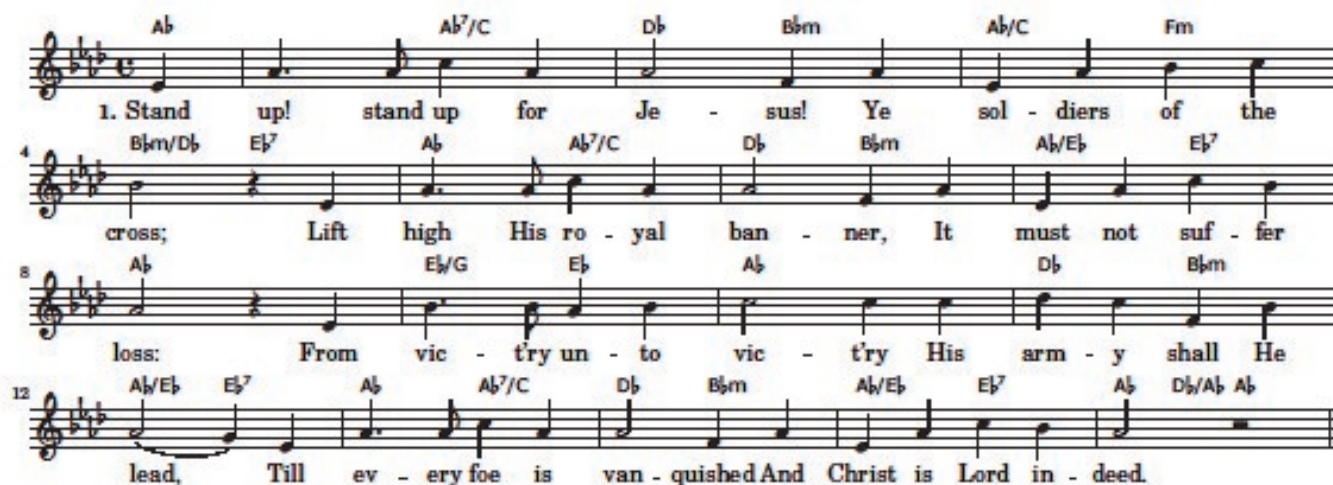
1. I serve a ris-en Sav-ior He's in the world to-day. I know that He is liv-ing, Whatev-er men may say. I see His hand of mer-cy; I hear His voice of cheer; And just the time I need Him He's al-ways near. (C) He lives, He lives, Christ Je-sus lives to-day! He walks with me and talks with me a-long life's narrow way. He lives, He lives, sal-va-tion to im-part! You ask me how I know He lives? He lives with-in my heart.

2. In all the world around me
I see His loving care,
And though my heart grows weary,
I never will despair;
I know that He is leading,
Through all the stormy blast;
The day of His appearing
Will come at last.

3. Rejoice, rejoice, O Christian,
Lift up your voice and sing
Eternal hallelujahs
To Jesus Christ the King!
The Hope of all who seek Him,
The Help of all who find,
None other is so loving,
So good and kind.

Stand up! stand up for Jesus (Alternate Tune)

Spiritual Warfare — Standing Up



1. Stand up! stand up for Je - sus! Ye sol - diers of the
cross; Lift high His ro - yal ban - ner, It must not suf - fer
loss: From vic - t'ry un - to vic - t'ry His arm - y shall He
lead, Till ev - ery foe is van - quished And Christ is Lord in - deed.

2. Stand up! stand up for Jesus!

The trumpet call obey;
Forth to the mighty conflict
In this His glorious day.
Ye that are men, now serve Him
Against unnumbered foes;
Let courage rise with danger.
And strength to strength oppose.

3. Stand up! stand up for Jesus!

Stand in His strength alone;
The arm of flesh will fail you;
Ye dare not trust your own.
Put on the Gospel armor,
And, watching unto prayer,
Where duty calls, or danger,
Be never wanting there.

4. Stand up! stand up for Jesus!

The strife will not be long:
This day the noise of battle,
The next the victor's song;
To him that overcometh
A crown of life shall be;
He, with the King of glory,
Shall reign eternally.

O Jesus, I have promised

Consecration—Serving the Lord

1. O Je - sus, I have prom - ised To serve Thee to the end; Be
 Thou for - ev - er near me, My Mas - ter and my Friend; I
 shall not fear the bat - tle If Thou art by my side, Nor
 wan - der from the path - way If Thou wilt be my Guide.

Chords: F, F/A, C, C⁷, F, D⁷, Gm, G⁷/B, C, F, C, C⁷/E, D⁷, Gm, Gm/B^b, F/C, C⁷, F.

2. Oh, let me feel Thee near me;
 The world is ever near;
 I see the sights that dazzle,
 The tempting sounds I hear;
 My foes are ever near me,
 Around me and within;
 But, Jesus, draw Thou nearer,
 And shield my soul from sin.

3. Oh, let me hear Thee speaking,
 In accents clear and still,
 Above the storms of passion,
 The murmurs of self-will;
 Oh, speak to reassure me,
 To hasten, or control;
 Oh, speak, and make me listen,
 Thou Guardian of my soul.

4. O Jesus, Thou hast promised
 To all who follow Thee
 That where Thou art in glory
 There shall Thy servant be;
 And Jesus, I have promised
 To serve Thee to the end;
 Oh, give me grace to follow,
 My Master and my Friend.

5. Oh, let me see Thy footmarks,
 And in them plant mine own;
 My hope to follow duly
 Is in Thy strength alone.
 Oh, guide me, call me, draw me,
 Uphold me to the end;
 And then to rest receive me,
 My Savior and my Friend.

Video Examples and Resources from YouTube

You can use these clips as part of your worship to lead into the message. You can also use them as examples for the planning team to study as you develop your own message. (To open the YouTube sites, you need to have access to the website from your computer. Hold down the control key and click on the website address.



Bread of Heaven

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kjVgm9-XTqQ>
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U1fLiDjLf5c>
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RcWMLZdS4rE>

Bread of Heaven

Extended play for meditation (14 minutes): http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QQ25T_9fccQ

You are Holy / Gadol Elohai by Joshua Aaron

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vosprI9WV3U>

HEBREW - How Great is our God / Gadol Elohai by Joshua Aaron

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sWSKtoURGAg>

The Lord's Prayer

Instrumental: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BKaUf7QiU5Y>

Susan Boyle: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-HaEoCqH47Y>

Jackie Evancho: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bSj31u3urvs&list=RDbSj31u3urvs#t=3>

in Korean: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hWf9UKjai1oin>

in French: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MSZXiTjma0o>

in Spanish: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DiMPVnJhAwQ>

Chinese Version: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p1baNBCny_c

in 8 Ancient Languages: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aMqXR-BM0Q4>

The Lord's Prayer in Hebrew (it may be how the disciples heard it – you can learn it)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qToHoRxx3co>

The Lord's Prayer for deeper study – a lesson in the translation of...

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i8IJOgMVE1Q>

I Am The Bread of Life: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f7y-NZocIwo>

Video visual of Jesus' time on earth to the song: "I am the Bread of Life"

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W4CapSBM8UA>

One Bread One Body: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PczGcwVWM-w>

Instrumental: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o_hd7K5Rn5k

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R6xIdDYiA9A>

Worship in Creole

Jésus, Tu es ma vie et ma joie - Maggie Blanchard

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i1OwEZEjUzU&list=PL11C485A57E946EFF&index=4>

Viens St Esprit

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TzyScRIF5IM&index=45&list=PL11C485A57E946EFF>



This year's Laity Sunday/Week of the Laity package has been written by Minister Lonnie Graves of Concord, Calif. Lonnie Graves has been trainer, speaker, presenter and keynoter at many regional, state and national events across the United States. When she served as a Director of Women's Ministries in the national office of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), she embraced diversity and also directed Leadership Development programs for various constituency groups. She has directed national and regional travel experiences for groups within the United States and outside of the U. S. to Haiti and the Dominican Republic. She has served on various Boards of Directors, and on planning teams for international events. Lonnie is also a published writer and photographer. She is currently an adjunct instructor at a local college, and is actively involved in her own contextual learning academy. She continues as a communications consultant curriculum and contextual learning experience developer.



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