

Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

For Group Meetings between February 5 and February 11

Prayer of the Day: Healing God, give us a spirit of compassion as we reach out to the hurting and lonely in our families and in our community. Help us to understand that we are for them your instrument of peace. Amen.

BIBLICAL EQUIPPING TOGETHER:

Share: How did last week's scripture (Mark 1:29-39) work in your life this week?

Mission: What was most satisfying about your ministry last week? Where do you see God at work? How did you participate in God's missional activity? **How did welcoming go last Saturday and Sunday? How many new people did you talk to? IF YOUR GROUP IS SPONSORING NEW MEMBERS, HOW ARE THEY DOING?**

Hear: Mark 1:40-45 (Silence before and after reading.)

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

1. What did the leper want? What do you learn about the leper?
2. What did Jesus choose to do? What were his instructions to the leper?
3. What did the leper choose to do? What was the result for Jesus?

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

1. What did pity motivate Jesus to do? For whom are you most likely to feel pity? What's the difference between pity and compassion? When do you feel self-pity?
2. Why did the leper have to go to the priest? What benefit would that provide for him? Has healing ever occurred in your life? If so, what were the consequences of the healing? What new possibilities did healing present?
3. Why did the leper disobey Jesus? When are you most likely to disobey someone? When has disobedience had positive results?

Prepare: Memorize this verse: **"Moved with pity, Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him, and said to him, 'I do choose. Be made clean!'"** What do you hear God telling you?

BIBLICAL EQUIPPING APART:

Obey: During this week follow through on your intentions.

Meditate: Read 2 Kings 5:1-14. What is the Spirit saying to you? **Reflect:** What have I learned in my week of living with this text? What can I share with my group when we next meet?

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

BIBLICAL EQUIPPING NOTES FOR CHRISTCARE LEADERS

Mark 1:40-45

Mark continues his description of Jesus' ministry by giving an example of how he reached out to a particular person, a beggar with leprosy, who came to him for healing. The leper demonstrates faith and Jesus shows compassion. The amazing thing is that Jesus actually touches the leper. In reality the unclean leper is cleansed and the clean Jesus is made unclean.

In order to be restored to community the leper has to jump through the hoops of the law by going and showing himself to a priest and making an offering of thanksgiving. Jesus tells him to do that but to say nothing to anyone about his healing.

Of course the leper can't keep his mouth shut and spreads the good word about Jesus freely. Jesus' reputation as a healer increases and his ministry of teaching is hindered.

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

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
Born of the virgin Mary,
Suffered under Pontius Pilate,
Was crucified, died and was buried;
He descended to the dead,
On the third day he rose again;
He ascended into heaven,
He is seated at the right hand of the Father,
And he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
The holy catholic church,
The communion of saints,
The forgiveness of sins,
The resurrection of the body,
And the life everlasting. Amen

