

"Called to Commitment"

June 10, 2018



THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURES

Acts 16:13-15, Romans 12:13; Deuteronomy 4:5-14, 11:18-21; Matthew 15:32-39, 25:31-40; Romans 12:3-8; Colossians 3:1-17

DAY 1

Read [Acts 16:13-15, Romans 12:13](#)

The Holy Spirit gives many kinds of gifts and our lives are filled with a wide variety of experiences. Sometimes we do not even recognize how our experiences, talents and gifts can be used to serve others. Lydia is a great example of a person who knew what she had to offer and then offered it in service to God. Lydia was blessed with the gift of hospitality. She had the means, the experience and the wisdom to recognize how important it might be to support those who were sharing the Gospel. Her contribution was to provide shelter, food and a loving environment. Her hospitality helped spread the Gospel in places where Paul started churches. The gift of hospitality is still so important because it makes the church a welcoming place.

- **Are you a person who loves to prepare food, create a welcoming environment, or extend a hand of greeting to others?**
- **Do you recognize these traits as part of the gift of hospitality?**
- **How do you use these gifts for the church?**

Prayerfully consider becoming a greeter or usher or joining our Martha or Loving Hearts Ministries. People on these

teams provide a warm welcome, food for memorial service receptions, or meals for those experiencing a difficult time.

DAY 2

Read Deuteronomy 4:5-14, 11:18-21

When Moses reminded the Israelites of all they had experienced, he counseled them to pass on what they had learned to their children. He instructed parents and grandparents to teach their children God's commands and about the faith traditions they inherited. This teaching was to occur in the home and during daily family life.

- **Reflect about the ways you have passed on our faith traditions to your children, grandchildren, or children you encounter on a daily basis.**
- **What do your attitudes and actions teach children about Jesus?**
- **How can you become more involved in passing on the Good News of Jesus to the next generations?**

Pray about the ways that you might introduce or encourage the faith of a child, including the children we encounter in our outreach ministries like the Jubilee, Summer Camp, Vacation Bible School, Jumpstart or Open Arms.

DAY 3

Read Matthew 15:32-39, 25:31-40

In his own ministry, Jesus fed thousands of people. He also taught about the importance of feeding those who are hungry. Here at St. Paul we feed thousands of people through Open Arms. Our Pack-a-Sack ministry provides food to forty children every week, who otherwise might not eat during the weekend when their schools are closed. Our homeless meal teams provide a hearty meal to our homeless brothers and sisters on Sunday afternoons. Our

Martha Ministry feeds people who need assistance during times when they are recovering from surgeries or illnesses.

One of our goals is to feed people spiritually as well. Those who lead worship, lead small groups, teach Sunday School classes, or visit the sick or home-bound participate in different kinds of *spiritual* feeding ministries. Both types of food are important in the process of making disciples.

- **Have you ever participated in feeding those who are physically or spiritually hungry? If you have, how did the experience benefit the person you fed? How did it benefit you?**
- **Where do you see opportunities to take part in a feeding ministry if you are not a participant now? If you are interested in taking a step of faith and leading our Pack-a-Sack ministry which has a full team of participants, please [contact Pastor Pam!](#)**
- **How does our church feed you spiritually and how do you respond?**

Reflect upon the ways that you share physical or spiritual food with others. If you are hungry for spiritual nourishment, cultivate a new spiritual discipline like Bible study, a daily devotion or a set-aside time for prayer. Ask God to strengthen you in your new practice.

DAY 4

[Read Romans 12:3-8](#)

This past Sunday our Lay Leader Felix Koutsourais brought us a message about what it means to be a committed Christian. Our commitment includes being intentional about using our gifts of leadership, encouragement, giving, teaching, mercy, or advocacy. A Christian who lacks commitment cannot fulfill Christ's call to love God and neighbor to his or her full potential.

- **What gift can you use in committed Christian ministry?**

- **If you are involved but not fully committed to a life in Christ or the spread of the Gospel message, what steps must you take toward greater commitment?**

Pray for the Holy Spirit to illuminate where you lack commitment and where you demonstrate commitment in your Christian walk. Give thanks for the Spirit's constant presence and guidance and take the next step in a life committed to doing the work God has set before you.

DAY 5

Read Colossians 3:1-17

Many people never share the love of Christ or come to know him as their Lord and Savior because they are turned off, turned away, and tuned out by the Christians they meet. Today's reading from Colossians reminds us of the importance of our demeanor and attitudes. It's hard to convince non-believers that Christ is the Way, the Truth, and the Life if we treat them with harsh judgement, disdain, anger, selfishness, or indifference. We can best demonstrate what it means to be redeemed by the Lord by sharing the love he poured out for us.

- **List the qualities others see or experience in their encounters with you? List the qualities you would like them to see or experience? What must change for your two lists to match?**
- **Do you consciously seek to deal with other people from a posture of humility, compassion and patience?**
- **Ask a faithful friend to read Colossians 3:12-14 with you. Ask for his or her honest assessment about whether you consistently demonstrate the qualities Paul lists in this text.**

Pray for God to help you live a life that embodies the characteristics identified in today's text.