

Go
Next Steps
February 13, 2022

OPENING PRAYER:

O God, You are our God. We thank you for Your great faithfulness every day of our lives, and for calling us here this day that we may learn about Your kingdom. Teach us about gratitude and hospitality, and show us how to be Your faithful disciples. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

BREAKING THE ICE:

- What did you agree or disagree with in the sermon this week?
- Just for fun, if you were a bicycle, what part would you be?
- When have you felt that you were part of a unit where all the parts worked together for a common goal?

WRESTLING WITH THE WORD:¹

As we GROW in our knowledge and love of God, we then our spurred in our discipleship to GIVE to others. This week learn from passages about Giving of ourselves in discipleship. Read Matthew 11:25-30.

- What does Jesus mean when he says to take up his 'yoke'?
- How do you see this passage tying to the discipleship plan to GIVE?
- Is Jesus' yoke resting lightly on you, or are you struggling to get out from under it? Why?
- How does taking up his way lead to rest?

Read 1 Corinthians 12:1-11.

- Is this list of spiritual gifts all inclusive? If no, what do you see is missing?
- Of the spiritual gifts listed, which have you received? Can you identify any others that you possess?
- Where have you used your gifts?

Continue by reading 1 Corinthians 12:12-31.

- Describe yourself as a 'part' of the body of Christ (an eye, hand, etc.) Why did you select that part?
- What could you do to help 'the body' function better?
- How do these verses make you feel about your place in the body of Christ? About your need for others?
- How will your life be different based upon what you have learned in this week's scripture, lesson and/or sermon?

NEXT STEPS:

- Sit down with at least three close advisors, friends or mentors and ask them to give you feedback to identify or confirm your spiritual gifts. Consider asking them to evaluate how well you are going for God?
- Make a list of activities you love to do. Spend time with that activity list; how can God use those activities/talents to further the Kingdom?

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:

God of great and small, we confess that we succumb to desires for success on the world's terms. We begin to think that biggest, strongest, most popular and richest is best. In our race to get ahead, we trample on people and principles and leave our children behind. Help us to remember your concern for the smallest and weakest, the outsiders and those who are poor. Help us slow down and listen to our children, listen to our hearts, listen for your word. Remind us that being first and fastest isn't most important. Guide us to serve others, especially the children who are being left behind. Amen. -Children's Defense Fund, 2000

¹Adapted from *The Serendipity Bible* (Zondervan: Grand Rapids, 1998)