

DISCIPLE I
Becoming Disciples Through Bible Study
THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF THE RESURRECTION

Week 18: Radical Discipleship

GATHERING AND PRAYER (page 128)

Theme: **Disciple**
Theme Scripture
Prayer before study

DVD PRESENTATION

SCRIPTURE AND STUDY MANUAL

Who wrote Matthew? When was it written? To whom? Discuss.

Consider the theme *Radical Discipleship*. According to *Webster's New World Dictionary*, *radical* means favoring fundamental or extreme change; one favoring fundamental social or economic change. *Disciple* means a pupil or follower of any teacher or religion or learning. Keep these definitions in mind as you read and discuss the Scriptures in the New Testament.

As a group come up with a definition of *Radical Discipleship*.

Read the assigned passages and look for examples of what would have been considered “radical” in Jesus’ teachings. In groups, develop a short summary:

Matthew 5:1-26 Sermon on the Mount

Matthew 5:27-6:4 Loving your neighbor

Matthew 6:5-34 Money and Worry

Matthew 7:1-28 Judging Others

ENCOUNTER THE WORD

Matthew 20:1-16

1. What does this passage tell us about God?
2. If we consider the call to radical discipleship, what meaning does this story have for us?

HUMAN CONDITION VERSUS MARK OF DISCIPLESHIP

Human Condition: page 128

What truths do you see in this statement?

Mark of Discipleship: page 135

What exactly does this mean to you? For you?

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYER CIRCLE SPIRITUAL GIFTS

At the end of this Disciple journey, we will discuss in depth our individual Spiritual Gift(s). We are each unique, each given special talents and interests. Begin thinking about where your talents and interests lie. Adam Hamilton has issued the challenge to members of COR to worship with our *head, heart and hands*. We are worshipping with our head through this Bible study, with our hearts as we remember those during prayers for each other and those on our joys and concerns list. What can we do with our *hands*? *How can you be a disciple called “to do”?*

DISCIPLE I
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Week 19: Mounting Controversy

GATHERING AND PRAYER (page 136)

Theme: **Threat**

Theme Scripture

Prayer before study

DVD PRESENTATION

SCRIPTURE AND STUDY MANUAL

The emphasis in this lesson is on value clashes, religious controversy, and political conflict. Explore these classes, controversies, and conflicts.

Matthew 12:1-14; 22:23-33

Value Clashes: Keeping the Law

Matthew 9:1-8; 21:23-27

Evidences of Religious Controversy

Matthew 22:15-22; 27:3-10

Evidences of Political Conflict

ENCOUNTER THE WORD

Matthew 26:69-75

Imagine being in the courtyard that night. What would you be thinking and feeling?

HUMAN CONDITION VERSUS MARK OF DISCIPLESHIP

Human Condition: page 136

These are strong words! Do you see any truths in them?

Mark of Discipleship: page 142

Easy to say! Can we accept the challenge to become this kind of disciple?

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYER CIRCLE

DISCIPLE I
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Week 20: The Hidden Messiah

GATHERING AND PRAYER (page 144)

Theme: **Good News**

Theme Scripture

Prayer before study

DVD PRESENTATION

SCRIPTURE AND STUDY MANUAL

Who wrote Mark? When was it written? To whom?

What is the tone of the Gospel of Mark as compared to the Gospel of Mark?

There are some important themes in Mark. Mark is a simple, succinct, unadorned account which emphasizes more of what Jesus did than what he said. Of the several emphases, two are the teachings of Jesus and the “secret messiah” Read the following passages & discuss them.

The Struggle With Understanding

The Disciples and the people misunderstood who Jesus was and what his Messiahship was all about. They did not understand the parables Jesus used in his teaching.

Mark 4:10-20: Jesus says the secret has been given in parables. Why?

Mark 4:30-34: The Disciples did not understand the parables, but Jesus taught them separately. Why?

Do we or should we have a clearer understanding of Jesus' teaching than the people of New Testament times?

Political Overlay

The Pharisees supported the Herods (the rulers) who has been appointed by Rome. The Pharisees feared Jesus would create an unsettling influence on the people. Keep in mind that Jesus admonished them by saying they “satisfied the letter of the Law, but missed the meaning of the Law.”

Why do you feel the Pharisees missed “the meaning of the Law” in the following accounts?

Mark 2:6-10 (authority)

Mark 2:20-27 (keeping the Sabbath)

Mark 3:3-6 (healing ...be sure to check your Bible's commentary)

Mark 7:6-8 (hard hearts)

Mark 7:14-23 (uncleanness defined)

Hidden Messiah

On several occasions, Jesus admonishes people not to tell who he is. Why?

Mark 1:32-45; 41-45

Mark 3:11-12

Mark 5:35-43

Mark 7:33-36

Mark 9:30-32

The Servant Messiah

Put this teaching in your own words to share with the group: **Mark 10:42-44**

Question: do you find a contradiction in using the words “servant” and “Messiah” together? Why or why not?

Jesus ushered in the Kingdom by his acts of power. Discuss written responses on pages 147-149. What one question would you like to ask Jesus about his understanding of his power and the way he used it?

ENCOUNTER THE WORD

Mark 9:2-13

Imagine yourself as Peter or James or John on the mountain with Jesus. What are you thinking and feeling as you watch what is happening? Imagine yourself as James or John. What do you think of Peter's suggestion? What are you wondering as you come down the mountain, especially when Jesus tells you not to tell anyone about your experience?

HUMAN CONDITION VERSUS MARK OF DISCIPLESHIP

Human Condition: page 144

How can suffering and self-denial be understood and experienced as good news?

Mark of Discipleship: page 151

Keep the ideas of Spiritual Gifts in mind. Discovering these can help you understand your own personal ministry.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYER CIRCLE

DISCIPLE I
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Week 21: God Seeks the Least, the Last, the Lost

GATHERING AND PRAYER (page 152)

Theme: **Least**
Theme Scripture
Prayer before study

ABOUT LUKE

Luke was probably a Gentile, educated in the Greek culture, and a physician and companion of Paul's on various journeys. His account is based on eyewitnesses for he did not see or participate in the events recorded. He is the only writer who relates his narrative to dates in world history such as the naming of officials and events.

Luke's account contains an expanded story of the conception and births of Jesus and John and their mothers, Mary and Elizabeth. Only Luke contains the story of the shepherds at Jesus' birth; Matthew records the birth and the Magi's visit; Mark and John start with the story of John preaching and Jesus' baptism. Luke also gives us a glimpse of Jesus' childhood with the story of His presentation at the Temple at the age of 12. A number of parables are found only in Luke; two of the more familiar are the story of the Good Samaritan and the story of the Prodigal Son.

DVD

SCRIPTURE AND STUDY MANUAL

Read and discuss **4** of the parables found only in Luke's gospel:

1. Read and discuss the meaning of the assigned parable.
2. "Translate" this meaning into a statement of the lesson Jesus was teaching.

3. Keep in mind the theme of the *least, last, lost*. Finally, read **Luke 4:18-19** to review this emphasis of Luke.

Parable of the Good Samaritan	Luke 10:25-37
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Parable of the Rich Fool	Luke 12:13-21
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Parable of the Pharisee and Tax Collector	Luke 18:9-14
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Parable of the Great Banquet	Luke 14:16-24
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ENCOUNTER THE WORD **Luke 16:19-31**

The Lazarus mentioned in this parable is *not* the brother of Mary and Martha who was raised from the dead.

1. What is the central idea in this passage?
2. What meaning does this passage have for Christians today?
3. What does this passage require of us individually?

HUMAN CONDITION VERSUS MARK OF DISCIPLESHIP

Human Condition: page 152

All the elements of discrimination are contained in this statement. How does this make you feel?

Mark of Discipleship: page 158

As we reflect on the seduction of the comfortable, protected lifestyle and the demands of God's mission to the outcast, what *can* we, *should* we, *do* we do for the least, the last, and the lost?

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYER CIRCLE

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Week 22: Lifegiver

GATHERING AND PRAYER (page 160)

Theme: **Life**
Theme Scripture
Prayer before study

ABOUT JOHN

John is written in an intellectual style. Some think this style was used to appeal to Greek thinkers. The Gospel's primary intention was evangelistic. John contains an expanded story of the Upper Room, but there is no mention of the Last Supper. Most of this section contains what Jesus *said* to his disciples.

One emphasis of John is the lesson of love: "*Love one another*" --*John 15:9-17*. Jesus' longest recorded prayer appears in Chapter 17. John writes that "*Jesus did many other things as well*"—*John 21:25*. John was selective in reporting events.

John uses the word *glorify* numerous times throughout the Gospel. According to Nelson's *New Illustrated Bible Dictionary*, the word "glorify" means to magnify God through praising His name and honoring His commandments. Jesus also glorified His father through His perfect obedience and His sacrificial death on our behalf.

DVD

SCRIPTURE AND STUDY MANUAL

In John, there are a number of "I am" statements which Jesus uses to describe himself. Read the following passages, identifying the metaphors used by Jesus.

VERSE

"I AM" STATEMENTS

John 2:19-21 _____
John 3:16 _____
John 4:21-26 _____

John 5:19-23 _____

John 6:35; 48-51 _____

John 8:12; 12:34-35 _____

John 10:7-9 _____

John 10:11; 14 _____

John 11:25-26 _____

John 14:6 _____

John 15:1-5 _____

John 18:33-37 _____

Review the list of metaphors created from reading these Scriptures. What overall feeling do these metaphors give you?

ENCOUNTER THE WORD

Scripture: John 10:7-18

Read this passage and then restate it in your own words.

HUMAN CONDITION VERSUS MARK OF DISCIPLESHIP

Human Condition: page 160

How can we live happy, productive lives and be at peace?

Mark of Discipleship: page 166

Is this statement our answer to the above question? Why or why not?

**JOYS AND CONCERNS
PRAYER CIRCLE**

DISCIPLE I
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Week 23: Advocate

GATHERING AND PRAYER (page 168)

Theme: **Assurance**

Theme Scripture

Prayer before study

DVD PRESENTATION

SCRIPTURE AND STUDY MANUAL

In John's Gospel, Jesus offers the Holy Spirit as Comforter, Counselor, and Advocate. Jesus promised the Holy Spirit to enlighten them, even as He helps us know and understand.

The following Scriptures tell us how Jesus was preparing his Disciples for the time they would be without him. To set this scene in the Upper Room during the Last Supper, read **John 13:33-38**, then continue discussion about each of the passages below.

John 14:1-14 "Doubting" Thomas did not understand what Jesus is saying. What is Jesus' answer?

John 14:15-31 Who is the “Counselor” Jesus will ask the Father to send? What will the Counselor do?

John 15:18-16:4 What future does Jesus predict for the Disciples? What comfort does Jesus offer?

John 17:1-25 Jesus prays for 3 groups of people. Who are they and what does he pray?

ENCOUNTER THE WORD

John 13:1-20

Identify the details and sequence of the story.

HUMAN CONDITION VERSUS MARK OF DISCIPLESHIP

Human Condition: page 168

How does this human longing make “not seeing yet believing” more acceptable to us?

Mark of Discipleship: page 174

In what ways can we find this assurance?

SPIRITUAL GIFTS

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYER CIRCLE

How to Stop a Burglar: An elderly woman has just returned to her home from an evening of religious service when she was startled by an intruder. As she caught the man in the act of robbing her home of its valuables, she yelled, “Stop! Acts 2:38!” (Look it up!) The burglar stopped dead in his tracks. The woman calmly called the police and explained what she had done. As the officer cuffed the man to take him in, he ask the burglar why he just stood there because all the old lady did was yell a scripture at him. “Scripture?” questioned the shaken burglar. “She said she had an AXE and TWO 38’s!”

DISCIPLE I
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Week 24: The Explosive Power of the Spirit

GATHERING AND PRAYER

Theme: **Power**
Theme Scripture
Prayer before study

DVD PRESENTATION

SCRIPTURE AND STUDY MANUAL

About Acts: This book is the “Acts of all the Apostles” or the “Gospel of the Holy Spirit.” Luke is the accepted author. As we have previously seen with Luke’s writing, the detail is accurate. Archaeological findings reveal that Luke uses proper terms for the time and place being described.

The theme word for this study is *power*. In the following events, trace the effect on individuals and groups of people.

Peter and John before the Sanhedrin	Acts 4:1-21
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The Sanhedrin had eliminated Jesus. Now here are Peter and John. What *must* the religious leaders have thought? How did the Holy Spirit empower Peter?

The Stoning of Stephen	Acts 7:51 – 8:1
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After Stephen has told the story of the Israelites starting with Abraham through their wandering in the wilderness, how and why does he admonish the Jewish leaders? What is their reaction? How does the Holy Spirit empower Stephen?

Philip and the Ethiopian**Acts 8:26-40**

What circumstances led Philip to the Ethiopian? What is the result? In what way is the Holy Spirit part of this story?

The Conversion of Saul**Acts 9:1-16**

Does the calling of the least, the last, the lost apply here? How? The Holy Spirit is very evident in this story: why does Saul say, “*Who are you, Lord?*”

Peter’s Miraculous Escape**Acts 12:1-18**

This event takes place at Passover. What parts of the story seem familiar? How does the Holy Spirit intervene? What is the first reaction of the believers to Peter’s escape? Would you have the same reaction to this event? Why?

ENCOUNTER THE WORD**READ: Acts 4:32 – 5:11**

What does this passage say about God? What does it say about human beings? About the relationship between God and human beings?

HUMAN CONDITION VERSUS MARK OF DISCIPLESHIP**Human Condition:**

Is this a true statement? What power is available to us? Read the Mark of Discipleship.

Mark of Discipleship:

Reflection: In what ways have I experienced the presence and the power of the Holy Spirit in my life?

JOYS AND CONCERNS
PRAYER CIRCLE

DISCIPLE I
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Week 25: The Gospel Penetrates the World

GATHERING AND PRAYER (page 184)

Theme: **Conversion**

Theme Scripture

Prayer before study

DVD PRESENTATION

SCRIPTURE AND STUDY MANUAL

The last half of Acts relates the second and third journeys of Paul. Today, we are going to go along on that journey, making note of the importance of the events along the way. Just as Jesus had done, Paul went first to the synagogues. Summarize the events with blanks, then take the journey with Paul from Philippi to Rome.

CITY

Philippi

Acts 16:11-40

RESPONSE

Conversion of Lydia, a businesswoman and Gentile. Invited Paul's group to stay at her house. Paul and Silas jailed when they healed a slave girl who earned money for her owners by fortune-telling. When an earthquake shook the jail, the jailer asked what he must do to be saved. Paul and Silas released.

Thessalonica & Berea

Acts 17:1-15

Athens

Acts 17:16-34

Corinth
Acts 18:1-17

Ephesus
Acts 19:1-41

When Paul taught at the synagogue, he was met with rejection and criticism for “The Way” (name given to Paul’s message). Paul lectured for 2 years to the Greeks. A number who practiced sorcery believed and burned their scrolls and materials. However, the idol makers became alarmed that their trade was in danger since Paul was preaching one God and man-made gods were no gods at all. They drug Paul into court, but the city clerk dismissed the assembly.

The sequence and nature of the following events are fairly complicated. Ask what are the issues related to these events? What were the outcomes in terms of their impact on the spread of the gospel?

Acts 22:22-29

Acts 23

Jerusalem is hostile to Paul; Paul asserts his privilege as a Roman citizen to be heard by Caesar. (It was illegal to flog a Roman citizen with the scourge or to bind by chains; it *was* legal for an alien or slave.) The Sanhedrin falls into internal arguments over the situation with Paul; Paul is transferred at night to Caesarea.

Acts 24

Paul defends himself to Felix; again he tells the story of his conversion. Felix, as a favor to the Jews, left Paul in prison 2 years.

Acts 25

Trial before Festus results in being sent to Rome. Festus believes that Paul’s “great learning is driving [him] insane.”

Shipwrecked on Malta
Acts 28:1-10

Rome
Acts 28:17-30

ENCOUNTER THE WORD

Ephesians 1:3 - 2:10

Paul's letter to the Ephesians is unlike other letters since it does not specifically address error or errant practices. Paul wanted to expand the dimension of God's purpose for the Church and the ideas of God's grace. What does this passage tell us about God?

Ephesians 2:8-9 "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith---not this from yourselves, it is the gift of God---not by works, so that no one can boast."

What does this passage tell us about the possibility of grace for all people: saints, "good people," nominally religious, non-religious, murders, agnostics, atheists, evil people?

HUMAN CONDITION VERSUS MARK OF DISCIPLESHIP

Human Condition: page 184

What are some of the reasons for this discomfort within us?

Mark of Discipleship: page 189

What other ways might we witness besides evangelizing?

**JOYS AND CONCERNS
PRAYER CIRCLE**

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Week 26: Put Right With God Through Faith

GATHERING AND PRAYER (page 190)

Theme: **Justified**
Theme Scripture
Prayer before study

DVD PRESENTATION

SCRIPTURE AND STUDY MANUAL

Read the following scriptures for Paul's theological ideas as he writes to the Romans. In your own words, write a statement which expresses Paul's Gospel message to the new Christians.

Romans 9:30-10:16 **Israel's failure; Paul's hope**

Romans 11:13-24 **The Gentiles' gain; God's promise for Israel**

Romans 12:1-21 **Guidelines for Christian living, spiritual gifts**

Romans 13:8 – 14:8 **More guidelines for Christian living**

Discussion: Read Romans 11:24

Paul claims our role as Gentile Christians is a “wild olive shoot” grafted onto the olive tree. What does this mean?

ENCOUNTER THE WORD

Read Romans 4:13-22; 4:23 – 5:5

1. We hear a good deal about *self-esteem* in our society. Can this quality be *given*? Or, must it be acquired through effort? In our society, how do we claim self-esteem enhances one’s life? Is this a valid claim....why or why not?
2. In a Christian’s life, in what ways is suffering akin to self-esteem?

HUMAN CONDITION VERSUS MARK OF DISCIPLESHIP

Human Condition: page 190

What examples might illustrate how we deliberately rebel and go against God?

Mark of Discipleship: page 195

What ideas have we discussed today that might help you to receive and trust God’s forgiving love and to serve with love and gratitude?

**JOYS AND CONCERNS
PRAYER CIRCLE**

DISCIPLE I
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Week 27: A Congregation in Ferment

GATHERING AND PRAYER (page 198)

Theme: **Love**
Theme Scripture
Prayer before study

DVD PRESENTATION

SCRIPTURE AND STUDY MANUAL

As we read the assigned Scriptures, apply Paul's teaching to the church today. What problems did the Corinthians experience that we face even today?

I Corinthians 3

Some in the Corinthian Church said, "I follow Apollos;I follow Peter; ...I follow Paul." What is Paul's answer regarding divisions in the church? Is this message still applicable to our church today? In what ways?

I Corinthians 12

We have talked about spiritual gifts in this group. What does Paul have to say about this area of Christian service? How can we apply this to the church today?

I Corinthians 15:1-34

Paul reinforces the heart of the Gospel with the Corinthian Church. What message do you hear for the church today?

Read aloud 1 Corinthians 13 and 15. What did you hear? Feel?

ENCOUNTER THE WORD

I Corinthians 10:1-13 or 3:1-23

As a group, paraphrase Paul’s ideas for either passage:

HUMAN CONDITION VERSUS MARK OF DISCIPLESHIP

Human Condition: page 198

What are some solutions to this problem?

Mark of Discipleship: page 204

If we love, do we love *everyone*? Can we? Must we?

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYER CIRCLE

DISCIPLE I
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Week 28: The Son Shall Set Us Free

GATHERING AND PRAYER (page 206)

Theme: **Freedom**

Theme Scripture

Prayer before study

DVD PRESENTATION

SCRIPTURE AND STUDY MANUAL

Paul's work in Galatia had been extremely successful. Many people, mostly Gentiles, had enthusiastically accepted Christ. However, certain Jewish teachers insisted that Gentiles could not be Christians without also keeping the Law of Moses. Circumcision became epidemic among these Gentile Christians. Paul's letter explained that although circumcision had been a necessary part of Jewish national life, it **was not** part of the Gospel of Christ and had **nothing whatever to do with salvation**. Faith was the only requirement.

Explore the following concepts in groups. Use your study manual and Scriptures to answer the questions. Share your answers.

Galatians 3:1-3

The Judaizers

Who were they? What trouble did they create? Why? Are there Judaizers in today's society? (See Study Manual page 208)

Galatians 2:11-14 Circumcision

How does Paul define this ritual? Since this ritual was an important part of the Law, is Paul renouncing this ritual? What was Peter and Barnabas' reaction to criticism from the conservatives? Are there occasions when our society retreats from God's grace through ritual and law? (See Study Manual page 209)

Galatians 3:11-14 Historical Observations

(See Study Manual page 209) What did Martin Luther and John Wesley discover about works versus faith/grace? Summarize each man's life for the group. Read through John Wesley's creed:

Do all the good you can
By all the means you can
In all the way you can
In all the places you can
To all the people you can
As long as ever you can.

As Christians, are we to do good works? **Or**, are we to rely on God's grace? **Or**, are we commissioned to do **both**?

Galatians 5:13-14 Freedom Lifestyle

(See Study Manual page 210) What do believers **do** with their "freedom?" What exactly does it mean "to live in Christ?" On page 212 of the Manual, it says, "Disciples are set free by Christ to love. Their newly found freedom does not cause them to do whatever they wish, but rather to live a loving and self-giving life, a lifestyle higher than any set of rules." Is this statement contradictory? Why or why not?

ENCOUNTER THE WORD

Read the following Scriptures and discuss the questions:

Galatians 5:1-26 Paul has some harsh words for the agitators within the church. What does this say about dissension within the church today? What is Paul's message to eliminate problems within the church?

Galatians 6:1-10 Again, we as Christians, are commissioned to do good works. Does this mean collectively (as a church), individually, or both?

HUMAN CONDITION VERSUS MARK OF DISCIPLESHIP

Human Condition: page 206

Do you find any truths in this statement? What are they?

Mark of Discipleship: page 212

What is the challenge in living this statement?

**JOYS AND CONCERNS
CIRCLE OF PRAYER**

DISCIPLE I
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Week 29: A Pastor Gives Guidance

GATHERING AND PRAYER (page 214)

Theme: **Training**
Theme Scripture
Prayer before study

DVD PRESENTATION

SCRIPTURE AND STUDY MANUAL

We are going to look at Paul's letters carefully to see what he had to say about several issues. As you read and study these passages, look for ideas that we can apply to our church even today. In groups, use the pages indicated in your study manual and the Scriptures to answer the questions.

I Timothy 4; Titus 3:9-12; Study Manual page 216

What central doctrines of faith will help the people adhere to the truth?

I Timothy 2; Titus 2:1-12; Study Manual page 216

What are the instructions about teaching the people?

I Timothy 6:1-2, 17-19; Titus 3:1-7; Study Manual page 217

What is Paul's word on respecting spiritual authority and leadership?

1 Timothy 5:1-8; 1 Timothy 6:3-10; Study Manual page 217-18

What does Paul have to say about care for widows, elders and the handling of money?

ENCOUNTER THE WORD 1 Timothy 6:3-20

What is the central idea of the passage? What is the meaning for today's world?

HUMAN CONDITION VERSUS MARK OF DISCIPLESHIP

Human Condition: page 214

We have heard new ideas, morality, and practices defended by a statement such as, "This is the 21st century!" Is this a true defense for our actions? Does anything in Paul's letters to the churches support this idea? Why or why not?

Mark of Discipleship: page 219

How do we recognize "sound" teaching ?

**JOYS AND CONCERNS
CIRCLE OF PRAYER**

DISCIPLE I
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Week 30: Our Great High Priest

GATHERING AND PRAYER (page 220)

Theme: **Sacrifice**
Theme Scripture
Prayer before study

DVD PRESENTATION

SCRIPTURE AND STUDY MANUAL

Clement of Alexandria used to think that Paul might have written it in Hebrew and that Luke translated it for the style is markedly different from Paul's. Tertullian and Augustine thought that Barnabas wrote it. Luther declared that Paul could never have written it because the thought was not his; Calvin said that he could not believe this was a letter of Paul. Leading candidates for authorship of Hebrews are Barnabas or perhaps Apollos, a Jewish Christian with notable speaking abilities.

It was written to the Jewish converts being tempted to revert to Judaism or to Judaize the gospel. William Barclay says it was most probably written to a church in Rome.

The theme of Hebrews is the absolute supremacy and sufficiency of Jesus Christ as the revealer and mediator of God's grace. Jesus was the perfect priest and a perfect sacrifice

Study Manual pg. 226: A Sacrifice is measured by who is giving it, by whether it is voluntary, by how much the sacrifice costs, and by the cause in which the sacrifice is given.

A WALK THROUGH HEBREW 1-10

1. 1:4 Jesus because much superior to the angels.... Angel worship was beginning to creep into worship practices

2. 2:1 Pay careful attention to what we have heard...don't drift away...In what ways is this a danger today?

3. 2:9 But Jesus who was made a little lower than the angels...he became incarnate (God in flesh)...suffered death – perfect sacrifice
4. 2:16-17 Jesus was not sent to help angels...sent to Abraham’s descendents...to become a merciful and faithful **high priest** (priests were official ministers or worship leaders in the nation of Israel who represented the people before God and conducted various rituals to atone for their sins – officiated at worship by making various offerings and leading people to confess their sins.)
5. 3:3 Jesus has been found worthy of greater honor than Moses ... builder of house is greater than house....
6. 4:2 The message they heard was of no value because they did not combine it with faith...pretty much where the nominal Christian is...??
7. 4:14 Jesus is the great high priest who is able to sympathize with our weaknesses and was tempted in every way just as we are yet was without sin...In what ways do that make Jesus accessible???
8. 4:12 You need someone to return to the “milk” of the gospel not the solid food which you cannot handle. “Solid food” is for the mature who can distinguish good from evil. At what point of our Christian lives are we ready for “solid food”....
9. 7:23-25 Jesus has a permanent priesthood – he is able to save completely – no intercessor is needed
10. 8:8 New Covenant – my people when I led them from Egypt were not able to remain faithful to my covenant...Assess our faithfulness today as a culture. How do we measure up?
11. 9:12-15 Jesus entered the Most Holy Place not by blood of animal sacrifice but by his own blood. Jesus is the mediator of a new covenant
12. 10:12 This priest [Jesus] offered for all time one sacrifice for sins and sat down at the right hand of God.
13. 10:27 After we have received the knowledge of the truth and deliberately keep on sinning...are we trampling on Jesus as the Son of God??

GROUPS: discuss and share your ideas with whole group

Hebrews 11

Great Faith of God’s People (THE HALL OF FAITH)

11:1 Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.

Skim the chapter and make note of the people who are cited for their great faith. What importance do you remember about their stories?

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Week 31: A People Set Apart

GATHERING AND PRAYER (page 228)

Theme: **Holy**
Theme Scripture
Prayer before study

DVD PRESENTATION

SCRIPTURE AND STUDY MANUAL

ABOUT 1st AND 2nd PETER: The literary style of the Greek used in these Scriptures has led to the speculation that Silas acted as scribe for Peter. Although Peter quite possibly knew Greek, it is unlikely that he would write such polished version. It was possibly written between 60 AD and 67 AD, prior to Peter being crucified during Nero's reign. In groups, read the following Scriptures, then write a short statement (2-4 sentences) in response:

2 Peter 1:3-11

Identify qualities of those called to be Disciples

1 Peter 4:12-19

What is the Christian's response to suffering from holy living or being set apart?

1 Peter 1:13-25

Write a definition of "holy living"

ENCOUNTER THE WORD

1 Peter 3:8-17

1. In your own words, state in one or two sentences what this passage says about being holy.

2. **1 Peter 3:15:** *“But in your heart set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect....”*

If asked, how would you respond to someone who wanted to know your reason for hope?

HUMAN CONDITION VERSUS MARK OF DISCIPLESHIP

Human Condition: page 228

What did today’s study have to say that would help Disciples avoid the problem outlined in this statement?

Mark of Discipleship: page 234

It has been said that *“Character is what one does and says when no one else is looking.”* What is your response to this Mark of Discipleship?

**JOYS AND CONCERNS
CIRCLE OF PRAYER**

DISCIPLE I
Becoming Disciples Through Bible Study
THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF THE RESURRECTION

Week 32: We Never Lose Hope

GATHERING AND PRAYER (page 236)

Theme: **Victory**
Theme Scripture
Prayer before study

DVD PRESENTATION

SCRIPTURE AND STUDY MANUAL

According to Adam Hamilton during his twelve-minute trip through the Bible, the major theme of Revelation is *God Wins ----- Devil Loses ---- Jesus Returns.*

A familiar motif (reoccurring idea or phrase) is *“He who has ears let him hear what the Spirit says.”*

Because of the persecution of the Roman Emperors Nero and Domitian, Revelation is written in symbolic language; to outsiders it was meaningless while insiders would have some understanding.

SYMBOLISM TO UNDERSTAND:

Rome: Babylon, the great whore, the scarlet beast, the great beast like a leopard, bear, lion.

Numbers: 1 = God, a holy number
3 = Heaven, the Trinity
4 = earth, four corners, four winds
6 = a human number, incomplete (7 less 1)
7 = a perfect number (3 + 4), complete, holy, divine
12 = Twelve Tribes, Twelve Apostles
666 = In Hebrew and Greek numbers were represented by letters: A = 1, B = 2, etc. The letters of the name of the beast total 666 when added together. Others understand the number 6 is one short

of 7 which is God's number. The number 666 is a "trinity of sixes." The beast, powerful as he may become, is still not as powerful as God.

Lamb: Revelation's favorite name for Christ

Antichrist: the word may mean either "against Christ" or "in place of Christ." A false prophet and evil being who will set himself up against Christ and God's people. His primary work is the deception of the people and to undermine the work of God in the world.

Interpretations of Revelation: The *preterist* interpretation regards the book as referring to its own day; Christianity's struggle with the Roman Empire. The *historical* interpretation sees Revelation as the prediction of the whole period of church history; from John's time to the end of the world. The *futurist* interpretation centers largely on the coming of Christ and the end of the world; most of the book (chapters 4-22) are events yet to be fulfilled.

A WALK THROUGH REVELATION TOGETHER

Letters to the Seven Churches:

Rev 2:4-7 **Ephesus** was orthodox in teaching but losing its first love.

Rev 2:8-11 **Smyrna**, a good church was a humbler class of people and faced persecution.

Rev 2:14-17 **Pergamum** was faithful to the name of Christ but did permit heresy (Balaam)

Rev 2:20-23, 29 **Thyatira** was growing in zeal but tolerated the heresy of Jezebel (who called herself a prophet).

Rev 3:1-6 **Sardis**, a church of mostly ruling classes, was nominally Christian but followed a pagan lifestyle.

Rev 3:8-10 **Philadelphia**, like Smyrna, was of humbler classes of people and were persecuted

Rev 3:15-16 **Laodicea**, another church of mostly ruling classes, was lukewarm and pagan in lifestyle.

Rev 6 **The First Six Seals**

The seals mark a progression during the tribulation period. It is interesting to note that these signs follow in the exact order as the signs Jesus spoke of in Matthew 24:1-30 as he responds to the disciples' questions regarding the signs that will foretell his return and the end of the age: *Many will come and claim to be me....and will fool many people....there will be wars and threats of wars....nations and kingdoms will go to war against each other....people will starve and in some places there will be earthquakes....you will be arrested, punished, and even killed....many will be given up and will betray and hate each other. Many false prophets will come and fool many people....when the good news about the kingdom has been preached all over the world and told to all nations, the end will come. Someday you will see that "horrible thing" [the antichrist] in the holy place....False messiahs and false prophets will come and work great miracles and signs....the coming of the Son of Man will be lightning that can be seen from east to west....all nations will weep when they see the Son of man coming on the clouds of heaven and power and great glory. (Word in Life Bible, CE version)*

1 st seal vv 1-2	the white horse represents _____
2 nd seal vv 3-4	the red horse represents _____
3 rd seal vv 5-6	the black horse represents _____
4 th seal vv 7-8	the pale horse represents _____
5 th seal vv 9-11	vision of the _____
6 th seal vv 12-17	the earth will experience _____

Rev 8 The First Four Trumpets

Some take the trumpets to be symbolic, but futurist interpreters understand these trumpets to represent literal convulsions of nature that occur during the reign of the Antichrist:

vv 7-12 **“Wrath of the Lamb” unleashed, yet the worst is to come**

Yet there is still unbelief.

Rev 9 Fifth and Sixth Trumpets

vv 1-6 plague of the locusts

vv 15-19 200 million horsemen

Yet there is still unbelief.

Rev 11 The Two Witnesses

Who are the witnesses? There are many answers, some say Peter and Paul. The most common theory is Elijah and Moses, who appeared with Jesus during the Transfiguration (Matthew 17:1-8).

vv 3, 6-7, 11-13 the two witnesses prophesy in sackcloth; during the period the Holy City will be trampled by the nations.

Yet there is still unbelief.

Rev 12 The Woman, Child, and Dragon

The woman is commonly thought to represent Israel, and the child is Christ (v. 5). So it was that Christ was physically born out of the nation of Israel. The dragon is expressly identified as Satan. Verse 7 tells the story at the beginning of time of Lucifer’s (Satan) struggle with God and the fall of Lucifer from Heaven along with his followers.

Rev 13 The Two Beasts

The first beast seems to be a political figure and the second beast appears to be a religious figure, both of whom receive their power and direction from Satan. Perhaps this is a hint that the Antichrist will be a politician who rises to fame in an ordinary way.

To the preterist, the first beast is the old Roman Empire whose mission was to persecute the church. The futurist interpreter believes that this beast/Antichrist is a literal man who will rise to political power in a Revelationized Roman Empire. The second beast will hold a place of religious authority. In the Ancient Roman Empire, emperor worship was enforced. The futurist might say the beast will be the ecclesiastical head of the world’s last empire.

Rev 14 The Fall of Babylon

To the futurist interpreter, Babylon is a literal city of the future where the Antichrist will set up his headquarters. Perhaps this will be the ancient city of Babylon rebuilt or an existing city in that area, such as Baghdad. Some think that it will be the capital city of a Revelationized Roman Empire, and a

confederacy of 10 Western countries world powers that would conspire together to rule and control the world in end times. We see many signs today that suggest the governance of our world is becoming more and more global. An example might be the Euro dollar. Do you see a growing mandate for “tolerance” of immoral behavior while there is an equal growth of intolerance for Christian values like abstinence from sex before marriage and the sanctity of traditional marriage and family, a growing lack of morals and ethics in daily life? What examples can you provide?

Rev 15-16 Seven Bowls of God’s Wrath

Rev 15:1 The scene in heaven before the 7 bowls are poured out

Rev 16:2-4, 8: First Four bowls _____

vv 10-11 Fifth Bowl _____

vv 12-16 Sixth Bowl _____

vv 17-21 Seventh Bowl _____

Rev 18:21 Babylon is destroyed. An angel casts a “stone, like a great millstone, into the sea.”

Rev 19 The Destruction of the Beast and the False Prophet

Now their turn has come. The two are thrown alive into the fiery lake of burning sulfur, where they will suffer eternally (v. 20).

Rev 20 The 1,000 Years (Millennium)

Some believe the 1,000 years refers to one of the ages of eternity; others believe that the Millennium will be an age of blessedness.

v 7: Satan is released for a short time. *Yet again, at the end of the 1,000 years, countless multitudes of people will reject Christ and team with Satan.* They will be devoured with fire sent by God.
Yet, there is unbelief

What does Revelation tell us about the human condition? _____

v 10: Final victory comes when Satan is defeated for the last time.

Rev 21 The New Heaven and the New Earth

I saw a new heaven and a new earth. The first heaven and the first earth had disappeared, and so had the sea (v 1).

v 11-14: The new heaven is described.

Rev 22: Final Words

v 10: *“Do not seal up the words of this prophecy of this book,”* a grave warning to study it.

v 11: *“Let him who does wrong continue to do wrong...let him who is holy continue to be holy.”*

GENESIS AND REVELATION: THE FIRST AND LAST VOLUMES; THE ALPHA AND OMEGA

Genesis	Revelation
God creates the world	God creates new heaven and earth
The devil introduces sin into the world	The devil is defeated and destroyed, sin is done away with
Humanity falls into sin	God restores people to their original sinlessness
The world is subjected to a curse	The curse is removed
People are separated from God	People live with God forever
People shed tears and know sorrow	God wipes away every tear and removes sorrow
People are barred from the life-giving tree	People may eat freely from the life-giving tree
Death enters the world	Death is done away with and people live forever
The languages of humanity are confused and the peoples are scattered	The people of the world are brought together before Christ and they sing his praises together

SOURCES FOR INFORMATION ABOUT REVELATION:

New Illustrated Bible Dictionary

Halley’s Bible Handbook

NIV Study Bible

Word in Life Bible (Contemporary English Version)

HUMAN CONDITION VERSUS MARK OF DISCIPLESHIP

Human Condition: page 236

Where *is* the hope?

Mark of Discipleship: page 242

What is our source of help to remain steadfast?

**JOYS AND CONCERNS
CIRCLE OF PRAYER**

DISCIPLE I
Becoming Disciples Through Bible Study
THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF THE RESURRECTION

Week 33: Gifts of Each Disciple

GATHERING AND PRAYER (page 244)

Theme: **Ministry**
Theme Scripture
Prayer before study

WE ARE CALLED TO SERVE

Before class, complete pages 246-49 in the Study Manual.

Before viewing the video, let us review the list of spiritual gifts and the opportunities for ministry within the congregation:

Spiritual Gifts

Apostles:	leadership within the church
Prophets:	one who speaks for God, gives testimony, encourages
Teachers:	lecturers, small group leaders, teachers of children and adults
Miracle Workers:	ability to bring comfort, emotional healing, to ease tension
Healers:	ability to work with sick persons, medical arts, healing of emotional illness
Helpers:	the “lubrication” in the gears of the church, those who get things done even at some sacrifice or convenience. Those who are willing to work in the background to make sure things run smoothly.
Administration:	ability to organize, communicate, make decisions

AREAS OF THE CHURCH NEEDING DISCIPLES

(This is a partial list – the web site will give even more information!)

Alpha Ministry: volunteers, facilitators, hosts
Catalyst Ministry: conference volunteers, Leadership Summit volunteers, Leadership Institute volunteers
Children’s Ministry: Teaching, assistance/helps, artwork, Bible Theater, curriculum writer, check-in assistance, information booth/greeter, classroom volunteer, Vacation Bible Camp volunteer
Kids COR Nursery: creative/decorations, caregivers, puppets, storyteller, greeter, toy cleaner, toy and swing doctor, curriculum editor, visitor notes
Communications Ministry: photography, copy editor, graphic artist, illustrator, reporter/writer
Congregational Care: Christ’s Living Water Ministry, Congregational Care Ministers, Silver Link volunteers
Facilities: traffic ministry
Finance: office help, date entry, mailings volunteer
Guest Services: The Spring Coffee Café, The Well Book Store, Greeter, Mug Ministry, Tour Ministry Guide, Connection Point, Weekday Hospitality Team, Worship Welcome Team, Worship

Coordinator, bulletin stuffer, chairback stuffer, communion preparation/server team, attendance notebook stuffer, greeter, usher

Matthew's Ministry: assistance/helps with special needs persons, Bible study volunteer, Family Night Out volunteer, Angel Care provider

Men's Ministry: Small group facilitator, administration/helps

Missions: FaithWork, Bread Ministry, Collection Connection, Compassion International Weekend, Computer Ministry, Food Bank (sorting/delivery), Weekend Food Backpack Ministry; My Father's House Ministry, A Child's Hope Ministry, Habitat for Humanity & Lunch Angels, JOY in Service Holiday Missions, Alpha for Prison Ministry, Disaster Relief & Preparedness, Serving the Hungry (hot meals, sack lunches), Tutoring/ Mentoring in partner schools, Mission trips to Honduras, Haiti, South Africa, New Mexico

Next Steps Connection Ministry: Coffee with the Pastor; attendance data entry, new member connection team, office assistance

Prayer Ministry: Prayer Team, Prayer Covenant Network, Prayer Note Writer, Prayer Vigil Greeter

Saving Grace Productions: print media communicator, audio ministry, audio apprentice, audio engineer, lighting ministry, control room tech, lighting control operator, lighting tech, duplication ministry, transcriber, voice-over/acting

Security Ministry (Michael's Ministry): Cardiac Arrest Response Team (CART), Safety & Security Team

Resurrection Singles Ministry: host social activities, host service activities, coordinate large events/dances/trips, greeter, connect newcomers, marketing team

Small groups (home-based and workplace): leadership team, small group leader and co-leader, small group coach

Sports and Recreation: All-church events, adult sports

Stewardship: Financial Coach, Resurrection Foundation, Golf Tournament Volunteer, Stewardship Team Member, Volunteer Campaign Leader

Student Ministry: Jr. and Sr. High Students – café shift leader, café team leader, café volunteer, small group leader, Sunday Morning Information Station, Sunday School leader

Teaching & Equipping: Adult Christian Education Greeter, Adult Christian Education Leader, Bible Study Teacher, Spiritual Gifts Discovery Team, Spiritual Gifts Class Trainer,

Women's Ministry: Bible Study Teacher, Building Better Moms Teacher, Audio/Visual Assistant, UMW Circle Positions, Women's Conference Volunteer, Artists/Designers/Writers

Worship Arts – Contemporary Music: Adult Praise Group, Praise Band – Adult, Praise Band – Youth, Praise Band – Alpha, Women's Praise Choir, Young Adults Praise Choir

Worship Arts – Traditional Music: Choirs (all ages and stages), Hand Bell Choir (All ages and states) Children's Choirs, Kindermusik, Orchestra – Youth and Adult, Cantata Choir, Voices of Resurrection; Christmas at Resurrection

Young Adult Ministry (College +): Hosts for social activities, social events, service activities, lead sporting team event/team, plan trips, greeters, connect new people, market events, program creation

The Member Connections Ministry is available and willing to help you find your place in the COR family!

PRAYER (members hold hands as prayer is read)

Heavenly Father, today we ask you to be within our midst as we examine our hearts and minds, looking for ways to use our own unique talents, looking for ways to serve you and your church. Sometimes, we are hesitant to step forward, to say, "I can do that" or "I will help you." Give us the courage, the faith, the

desire to follow in your footsteps as you taught us, “When you have fed the hungry, clothed the poor, or ministered to those in prison, you have done these things to me!” You have given us the Great Commission, “Go and make disciples of all nations....and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you....” We want to serve you; help us find the way! **Amen**

VIDEO PRESENTATION

BIBLICAL GUIDANCE Revisiting the lessons from the Scriptures:

John 21:15-19 Jesus commands us to _____

John 13:16 We are minded that no one is _____

Philippians 4:13 “I can _____”

James 2:26 What does the phrase “*faith without works is....dead*” mean? _____

CONSULTATION ON SPIRITUAL GIFTS

Expressing Support for One Another

During this time each will briefly share one or two statements of what he/she has learned about themselves during this nine month period together. Then each member of the group will express support by sharing a personal insight about the person’s Spiritual Gift(s).

Members may want to lay hands on as the group prays for each individual:

Heavenly Father, we ask you to guide your child _____ that he/she may understand your divine plan for his/her life. We pray that your child may become a disciple serving you with hands, heart, and head and with his/her unique Spiritual Gift. Amen

When all members have been supported and prayed for, close with a prayer.

Heavenly Father, we come to you in such awe for the majesty of your love and the wonderful friendships and bonds we have made during this study of your Word. At this time, when we are about to part after our Covenant Service together, we ask for your guidance in each life represented in this group. Help each of these Disciples to discover your divine plan for their individual life. Show us how we may be servants to one another. Help us to feed your sheep. We ask your blessing for each of us and ask that you help us to be a blessing to all those around us for your sake. AMEN

DISCIPLE I
Becoming Disciples Through Bible Study
THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF THE RESURRECTION

Week 34: A Last Supper Together

Remember

Read **John 17**: This account is the longest recorded prayer of Jesus which was given in the Upper Room during the Last Supper.

Based on your understanding from **DISCIPLE** study, why should a Christian keep and practice these values:

Covenant _____

Communion _____

Commitment _____

Evaluate your journey through Disciple 1

In what ways have I grown in knowledge:

In what ways have I grown in faith:

In what ways have I grown in service:

MARK OF DISCIPLESHIP: *Disciples commit their life completely to God to serve as God wills.*