

Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost
For Group Meetings from October 7 through October 13

Prayer of the Day: Almighty and ever-living God, increase in us your gift of faith, that, forsaking what lies behind and reaching out to what lies ahead, we may follow the way of your commandments and receive the crown of everlasting joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

BIBLICAL EQUIPPING TOGETHER:

Share: How did last week's scripture (Mark 10:2-16) work in your life?

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 inviting go last Saturday and Sunday? How many new people did you talk to?***

Hear: Mark 10:17-31

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

1. Summarize vv. 17-22 – what is the main point in the conversation between the man and Jesus?
2. Summarize vv. 23-27 – what is the main point in the conversation between Jesus and his disciples? How does this shed light on his conversation with the man?
3. How did Jesus highlight the sacrifice required to follow him yet still insist that eternal life is by what God does not human beings?

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

4. How can worldly goods and our pursuit of them get in the way of our relationship with Jesus? On the other hand, how can wealth be used in a positive way to live out faith? What makes the difference?
5. From your study of scripture, how do you think about eternal life? What else informs your thinking and conclusions or questions about eternal life?
6. Mark 10:31 states, "The first will be last, and the last will be first." In Acts 17, the apostles' teachings of Jesus are described as "turning the world upside down." Some appreciated these teachings, others reacted violently. Where do you see Jesus' teachings turning the world upside down today?

Prepare: Memorize this verse: *"But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first."* (Mark 10:31). How do you hear God calling you?

BIBLICAL EQUIPPING APART:

Obey: During this week follow through on your intentions.

Meditate: Read Hebrews 4:12-16. How does this speak into your life?

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.

Notes for ChristCare leaders:

This is an apt text in the middle of our season of stewardship campaign! Jesus wanted the man to consider his commitment to following Jesus and to remove anything that might stand in the way. At the same time, Jesus understood that we falter, we fail, and that in the end, the impossible is made possible only by God. In our own faith lives, it is good to take stock to see where we are committed to following Jesus in all we do and say and how we are living out our faith. Or in other words, where is our faith in motion?! Jesus really does level the playing field when it comes to faith and eternal life, and he asks us to think in his “kingdom ways” which see value in the least, the lost, and the little, and which asks us to share with those in need, give voice to the oppressed, and come to God with childlike trust.

Thanks be to God,
Pastor Andrea acain@desertcross.org

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,
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