

Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost
For Group Meetings from November 12 through November 18

Prayer of the Day: Righteous God, our merciful master, you own the earth and all its peoples, and you give us all that we have. Inspire us to serve you with justice and wisdom, and prepare us for the joy of the day of your coming, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

BIBLICAL EQUIPPING TOGETHER:

Share: How did last week's scripture (Matthew 25:1-13) 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: Matthew 25:14-30

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

1. How were the first two servants successful?
2. How did the third servant fail?
3. How might this parable be appropriate for a persecuted community of faith awaiting Jesus' return that was expected soon?

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

1. How are we like the successful servants? How are we like the third servant? Can you relate?
2. What enables and encourages you to remain faithful especially in challenging times? What makes it harder?
3. Can you see any grace in this parable? Where have you seen grace in your everyday life in the past week?

Prepare: Memorize this verse: *"His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy servant; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.'" (Matthew 25:23)* How do you hear God calling you?

BIBLICAL EQUIPPING APART:

Obey: During this week follow through on your intentions.

Meditate: Read Psalm 90:1-12. 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:

Jesus tells another parable soon before his passion on the cross. He emphasizes living in faith after he is gone and encourages an active faith and not just sitting back and waiting for him to return. Just as in previous parables, knowing the time he returns is not important. Being ready is important. And that only happens by living as he expects – working for justice, peace, and mercy in our areas of influence. He wants disciples to know him and trust him and model his active living out of faith serving others. We should follow his lead and never give up finding ways to increase his love in the world.

Thanks be to God,
Pastor Andrea
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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