

**Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost**  
**For Group Meetings from November 5 through November 11**

**Prayer of the Day:** O God of justice and love, you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, and awaken us to the needs of others, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

**BIBLICAL EQUIPPING TOGETHER:**

**Share:** How did last week's scripture (Matthew 5:1-12) 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:** Read Matthew 25:1-13

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

1. Jesus tells this parable to the disciples as part of his response to their questions about his second coming in a time of tribulation. How did you hear this parable... what questions, revelations, or surprises did it bring to you?
2. What are the differences between the wise and foolish bridesmaids?
3. If the "wise" are faithful and the "foolish" are unfaithful, the oil represents faithful, active discipleship, and the light represents mission, what are Jesus' expectations and priorities for his followers?

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

1. How are you like the wise bridesmaids? How are you like the foolish bridesmaids?
2. How might this parable and James' writing, "Faith without works is dead," encourage a vibrant, living faith lived out in action? What might that look like in your life?
3. How does this parable encourage us to keep our eyes on Jesus and to remain faithful in all circumstances?

**Prepare: Memorize this verse:** *"Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."* (Matthew 25:13) How do you hear God calling you?

**BIBLICAL EQUIPPING APART:**

**Obey:** During this week follow through on your intentions.

**Meditate:** Read Psalm 70. 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 this parable to the disciples soon before his passion on the cross. He is preparing them to continue to live in faith after he is gone and encouraging them to claim their faith for their own. He says that no one knows when he will return, but what is important is growing our relationship with him and continuing to bring his light into the world full of darkness. He wants our faith and relationship with him to be first and to guide our every move so that we know him, and he knows us, and the world knows us by our loving actions. We should not be distracted by other promises of false saviors in the world nor should we waste time worrying about the future. We are called to live in the present moment whatever that brings and to let our faith be our guiding light.

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