

INVITATIONS

COME.

Going Good in a Breaking Bad World

Psalm 1; Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Luke 14:25-35; Philemon 1-21

GETTING STARTED

When was the last time you had a meaningful invitation extended to you? Why was this invitation meaningful to you?

READ AND REFLECT

Have you ever read the Common Lectionary before? What was the context or reason you read it?

SERMON NOTE: The Lectionary contains four Bible readings – a Psalm, another Old Testament passage, a Gospel reading, and a text from one of the Epistles . Each “four-course menu” is designed to go along with the seasons and themes of the Christian Year. The verses changes every week, introducing you to four new passages. And by the end of a year, you will have been fed by a rich range of God’s Word.

Divide up the four Bible passages (above) between those in the group. For the verse assigned to you, read it silently and try to come up with one or two big ideas from that passage—or a brief summary. Have each person (or team if more than one person had the same passage) report back what they discover.

What do you notice about relationships between the four passages?

SERMON NOTE: At the center of each of these four dishes is one big idea meant to nourish us deeply: Building your life on the strength of God's Word will bring blessing. "Blessed is the one whose delight is in the law of the Lord" (Psalm 1: 1-2). "Keep his commands, decrees and laws and the Lord your God will bless you" (Deut 30: 16). "Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear" (Luke 14: 34) -- as in obey -- my word. "I pray that your partnership with us in the faith may be effective in deepening your understanding of every good thing" (Phi 6).

ENGAGE AND DISCUSS

Are you satisfied with your investment of daily reading and reflection on the Bible?

Reveal has been the largest spiritual/church survey ever conducted in history. One of the findings was that regular Bible reading and reflection is a catalyst for spiritual growth for EVERYONE, no matter where they are in their faith journey.

Do you believe this to be true? Why or why not?

At Christ Church, we are committed to helping people grow by taking STEPs of faith (Sight for the pathway, Training for the soul, Equipment for life, and Partners for the Journey). You have partners through your group. In this study we are gaining Sight for the pathway by assessing where we are in our regular practice of Bible reading and prayerful reflection. The Lectionary readings could be that tool (Equipping) to help you adopt the Training practice of regular Bible reading this year.

Does taking a STEP to read and reflect on the Lectionary reading throughout the week seem do-able to you? What would it mean for you to take this step?

Discuss as a group how you can encourage one another to adopt the Training practice of following the Lectionary. How might it deepen your community together?

NEXT STEPS

Accept the invitation to read the Lectionary passages throughout the week. Listen to both the words you read and to your own soul as you digest these verses.