

## DAILY BIBLE STUDY SHEET

*As the people of God we should be committed to reading Scripture every day. Here are daily readings and questions to help prompt your meditation. If you do not have a Bible, please contact the church office and we would be honored to provide one. To locate the passages, use the Table of Contents to find the page number of the book. The number before the colon will tell you the chapter to find. The numbers after the colon are the superscript numbers in your Bible indicating the verses to read.*

### **Monday, August 5<sup>th</sup> – Deuteronomy 4:5-8; Mark 1:14-15**

We are taking a few weeks to look at what it is to "Believe Out Loud." This in essence will help us be better witnesses for Jesus. This week we will be looking at what the Good News actually is. Most followers of Jesus cannot accurately articulate what it is or how to explain it and call others to receive it. Let's start by reading our Mark text. What is Jesus out and about doing (vs. 14)? What is the Good News (vs. 15a)? What time has come (vs. 15b)? How does one come nearer to or enter the Kingdom of God (vs 15b)? So we need to repent and believe. Let's start with repent. What do we need to repent? For that we need to go to Deuteronomy 4:5-6. Notice that obey is repeated twice. Why should they obey these commands (Deut. 4-7-8)? These are good and fair and just and righteous. These commands should, when obeyed, impress other nations and perhaps draw them nearer to God. Remember what Jesus says in Mark 1:15. The Kingdom of God is near. Repent from the fact that you fail to obey. Finally, we are called to believe. Believe what? This ties to what Jesus said in verses 14-15. The Good News is that God is near, nearer than we think. We need to repent and believe this. When we do, we receive the Good News. How near is God to you right now? What sins are getting in the way of you entering the full presence of God? What do you need to repent of so you may enter the full presence of God? Do you believe? In doing so, who might see this in you and ask about God? Are you ready to Believe Out Loud?

### **Tuesday, August 6<sup>th</sup> – John 1:15-18; John 14:8-14**

We continue today looking into what the good news is for us. Since Jesus says the time has come and the Kingdom of God is near and that this is good news, we should ask how this good news happens. We will turn to the Gospel of John to discover that answer and to explain again why the Kingdom of God is near. We start with John the Baptist's witness about Jesus. As you read verse 14, what does John say about Jesus? John and Jesus are cousins about six months apart in age, John being older. But how old does John make Jesus? What have we received because of Jesus (vs. 16)? What came through Moses (vs. 17a)? What comes through Jesus Christ (vs. 17b)? Where did both the law and Jesus come from (vs. 17)? Who is Jesus and what does he accomplish (vs. 18)? How is knowing this Good News? Now let's look at what Jesus says about himself as we read John 14:8-14. As we read verse 8, what is Philip's question to Jesus? What is Jesus' response to Philip's question (vss. 9-10)? How often do we think of Jesus as being separate from the Father? Is that the right way to think of it? If we can't wrap our heads around this idea of the Father and Jesus as one, then what alternative does Jesus offer Philip and us (vs. 11)? So, what good news comes from this understanding of who Jesus is (vss. 12-14)? Do your works equal or surpass those of Jesus? If not, why not? Maybe there is not enough depth to your belief. What parameters have been set for Jesus doing as you ask (vss. 13-14)? Note that you may ask anything, but it must bring glory to God. How does this tie into us doing greater things? What kind of greater things will we do? How does what you read today reveal what Good News is and does? How do you live into this Good News? How will you believe this out loud?

### **Wednesday, August 7<sup>th</sup> – Matthew 4:17; Mark 6:12-13; Luke 5:29-32**

So far this week we have learned that the Good News is that the time has come and the kingdom is near, because Jesus is God in the flesh walking among us. But Good News, much like a gift from someone is only good if we receive it and open it up. So how does someone receive the Good News? As you read these three texts, what is the common theme? Repentance is the key for us to receive the Good News of Jesus and to allow his work into our lives. If we never do anything wrong, then Jesus did not need to come and deal with sin in the world. Repentance is the key to unwrapping the gift we have been given. It is acknowledging where we miss the mark (repeatedly), and admitting our aim is based on where we think the mark is located. What example does Jesus give in Luke 5:32? Those who know they are sinners and wish they weren't are open to repentance. Those who think they have it all figured out and are already good, will never open the gift of the Good News. They fail to see their need for the gift. Consider your life today. What sins are you still committing and excusing? Do you think you live a pretty good life, so that repentance is not necessary? Repentance means to turn from a sinful (missing-the-mark) lifestyle and turning to God. It is opening the gift that has been given you. When was the last time you truly opened it up? Pray today asking God to help you see where you repeatedly miss the mark, so you can turn back and open the gift of Good News in your life.

### **Thursday, August 8<sup>th</sup> – John 3:18-21; Matthew 25:31-43; Revelation 20:11-15**

The next part of the Good News is that judgment is coming. For some that is a frightening thought. For others, they think that it is nonsense. And for still others, they don't know what to think. All three of these lines of thought exist in Christ's church. So what does the Bible tell us about the coming judgment? As we read our John text, who will receive judgment? As you read verses 18-19, who receives judgment and what is judgment based on? What is their fear of the light (vs. 20)? How does this tie into not knowing the Good News we talked about yesterday? Why do we need to live into verse 21? So, are you living in the light or darkness or a little of both? Let's read the Matthew text. Who is being judged here? Notice it is all the nations. You are part of the nation known as the United States. What is being judged? What actions, besides belief, are being judged acceptable and unacceptable? What is the defense for not doing these things (vss. 44-45)? What does this say about the motive of those who have not helped others? They would have helped, if they knew it was Jesus. That sounds like a pretty shallow faith, which truly misses the mark. And there is no repentance, so judgment comes. Finally, we look at our Revelation text. What is the scene that John describes here? Who is called before the judgment throne (vss. 12-13)? According to John, where does your name need to be found in order to not suffer the second death (final death – separation from God)? Considering what you have read this week, how does your name get into the book? After what you have read this week, go back to the first three thoughts on judgment. Which applies to you?

### **Friday, August 9<sup>th</sup> – Acts 2:25-33; 1 Corinthians 15:1-9**

Today we look at the final piece of the Good News! The proof is in the pudding, so they say. In other words, the last part of the Good News is how we know that the Good News is true. It is the proof or 1) God is near, nearer than we think; 2) God has revealed himself in Jesus and calls for our repentance, where there is love and forgiveness and adoption into the Kingdom of God; and 3) Judgment is coming and Jesus is the judge. So, what is the proof that all this is true? Read both texts for today. What do each of them speak about regarding Jesus? Resurrection is the difference. No other gods are resurrected. Buddha is dead and buried. Mohammed is a prophet, not God and he is dead and buried. There are numerous Hindu gods, all dead at one time or another, if they were ever alive. Christianity's God is three and one and perfectly alive. His tomb is empty and remains empty forevermore. That is why we can take the rest of the Good News to the bank and cash it in. What additional proof does Paul give in his letter to the Corinthians (vss. 5-8)? There were eye-witnesses to the resurrected Christ. Some died for that testimony. Jesus is alive. That means everything we have learned this week is true and either has come to pass or is coming to pass. The question for you today is "Do you know the Good News?" Can you explain it quickly to someone else? Can you explain how it specifically works in your own life? I once was lost, because I (fill in the sin part of your life), but now I'm found (fill in how repentance set you free and how God helps you to resist this sinful living). Can you explain about judgment? How you will be judged? How will the world be judged? How are those who fail to believe already judged? And can you do this without watering it down and compromising? Spend some time in prayer this week, asking God to strengthen your understanding of the Good News and then give you opportunities to share the Good News Out Loud with others.

### **Saturday, August 10<sup>th</sup> – To prepare for tomorrow's worship, please read Matthew 28:19-20.**