

Wednesday

Read John 15:9-11 *Following Jesus brings joy*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *How do you see yourself loved by God?*
2. *Take time to reflect on the joys of staying close to Christ. Give thanks for that relationship.*

Prayer Focus When we feel rootless and stressed, Holy One, we take joy and comfort in the word “abide.” We don’t want to wander. Thank you for the incomparable gift of teaching our hearts to beat with yours.

Thursday

Read Matthew 9:35-36 *Jesus sees the people’s condition*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *What good news do you need to hear Jesus proclaim today?*
2. *Have you had a time in your life when you really needed a shepherd?*

Prayer Focus We see the suffering in our world. We are healed and inspired to know that you see it, too, with compassionate eyes. We want your guidance, Healer. We are helpless without it.

Friday

Read Matthew 9:37-38 *Laborers are needed*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *Reflect on someone who has enriched your life through service to you, to the world.*
2. *How are you called to be a laborer for God’s harvest?*

Prayer Focus *Beloved, we are ready. We will help one another prepare to be your laborers, to gather a good harvest, for the sake of Jesus Christ, who calls us.*

The Value of Stewardship

Pastor’s message: *John 15:1-11, Matthew 9:35-38;*
Laity Sunday

Message Notes:

Small Group Format

Welcome

- Introductions/getting acquainted
- Mutual Invitation question: *What chores or other help did you do when you were a child? How did it feel to help?*

Opening Prayer

Song (optional)

Reflection on Scripture

Have someone read: **John 15:1-11, Matthew 9:35-38**

- Discuss observations about the text
 - *What word or phrase strikes you the most?*
 - *What do you think is the most important point of the text?*

Application of Scripture (The central transformative questions)

- What did you hear God say to you through this week's Scriptures?
- What are you doing about it?
- How can we support you?

Share your faith (in groups of 3)

- *How have you experienced God recently in your life?* (This is a weekly question - it may be difficult to answer at first, but if you ask it each week you may start to notice God more in your life.)

Pray for each other

Refreshments (optional)



THE VALUE OF STEWARDSHIP Laity Sunday October 17, 2021

Monday

Read John 15:1-4 *Vines don't grow on their own*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *What does it mean to you to know you are a branch?*
2. *How does Jesus show you he abides in you?*

Prayer Focus

Cleanse us today, Jesus. Make us ready to stick close to you and work in God's vineyard, knowing that any good service is worthy, small or large.

Tuesday

Read John 15:5-8 *Stay close to Christ*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *What fruit do you see in abundance today—in your life, in our world?*
2. *Ask for whatever you wish—wow! What would you ask for, so that God would be glorified?*

Prayer Focus

Savior, when we turn away from you and try to go it on our own, we are weakened and ineffective. Bind us to you. We can't ask for anything more glorious than a true relationship with you.