

**GROW. PRAY. STUDY.**

**First United Methodist Church- Weekly Study Guide**  
*"equipping people in becoming deeply committed Christians "*

Luke 9:51-58; 61-62

*As the time approached for him to be taken up to heaven, Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem. And he sent messengers on ahead, who went into a Samaritan village to get things ready for him; but the people there did not welcome him, because he was heading for Jerusalem. When the disciples James and John saw this, they asked, "Lord, do you want us to call fire down from heaven to destroy them?" But Jesus turned and rebuked them, and they went to another village.*

*As they were walking along the road, a man said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." Jesus replied, "Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head." Still another said, "I will follow you, Lord; but first let me go back and say good-bye to my family." Jesus replied, "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God."*

**Monday READ Luke 9:43-62**

Things were going well in Jesus' work. Crowds gathered to hear him preach, and rejoiced as he healed and restored suffering people. But Jesus' purpose went well beyond a PR success. He was determined to go to Jerusalem; his path led to the suffering and supreme sacrifice of the cross. As Jesus set out to go to Jerusalem, he sent messengers ahead to prepare the way for him. What will you do during the Lenten season to prepare your heart to receive Jesus more fully? How can you be a messenger helping to prepare others to receive Jesus?

**Tuesday READ John 11:6-16, 45-53**

John's gospel, like Luke's, says Jesus was very aware of the danger of going to Jerusalem. We hear Thomas say, in his glum but loyal way, that "we may as well go and die with him." And we get a sample of the deadly fury, robed in pious words, which Jesus faced when he got there. The disciples, John says, tried to talk Jesus out of going to Jerusalem. What reason did they give for their concern? How, if at all, does it alter your view of Jesus that he went to Jerusalem on purpose, knowing what to expect, rather than as a hapless, unsuspecting victim?

**Wednesday READ Luke 13:22-35**

On the way to Jerusalem, someone asked Jesus how many would be saved. Jesus didn't say "how many," but spoke instead about responding NOW to God's call. His message was, "Open your heart to me this day in repentance and faith." What does the simple, tender barnyard image of a hen gathering her chicks under her wings tell you about God's feeling toward you? Does this reinforce or challenge the way(s) that you most often think of God? How can you respond more fully to God "now," not later?

*If you can, join us for Ash Wednesday service tonight.*

**Thursday READ Luke 17:11-19**

It's no surprise that Jesus healed these ten men on his way to Jerusalem. He seems to have been nearly incapable of ignoring any human need or pain. The surprise lies in the meager thanks he receives, and in the Samaritan identity of the one who does say "thank you." When one healed man returned to give thanks, Jesus asked, "Where are the other nine?" The text doesn't tell us. Where do you think they might have been? If you had been one of the ten, which is more likely: that you'd have returned to give thanks, or gone about your business?

**Friday READ Luke 18:31-43**

Jesus had nearly reached his goal. (Jericho was about 15 miles from Jerusalem.) His disciples were still blind to the painful truth he tried to share with them. But for those like the blind man who are willing to ask for help, Jesus' presence, then and now, means renewed vision, and great rejoicing! Jesus asked the blind man, "What do you want me to do for you?" How would you answer that question if Jesus asked it of you?

**Saturday READ Matthew 21:1-2, 7-10; Luke 19:41-46**

Today you will be reading the passage we will use in worship tomorrow. Pray that God will open your heart and prepare you for a powerful worship experience as we come together tomorrow as the body of Christ.

***I invite you to pray the following prayer:***

*Dear God,*

*As I read this passage today help me do so with an open heart, sincerely listening for your voice in my life. Use this passage to prepare me for worship tomorrow. As I read it help me to set aside my own agenda and my own desires so that I may come to worship tomorrow prepared to be molded by you as I continue my journey to becoming a deeply committed disciple of yours. In Christ's name I pray, AMEN*

Here at FUMC we believe part of becoming a Deeply Committed Christians is praying daily. If you find yourself struggling with what to say, we suggest you try praying Wesley's Covenant Prayer.

***A Covenant Prayer in the Wesleyan Tradition***

I am no longer my own, but thine.  
Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt.  
Put me to doing, put me to suffering.  
Let me be employed by thee or laid aside for thee,  
exalted for thee or brought low by thee.  
Let me be full, let me be empty.  
Let me have all things, let me have nothing.  
I freely and heartily yield all things to thy pleasure and disposal.  
And now, O glorious and blessed God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit  
thou art mine, and I am thine. So be it.  
And the covenant which I have made on earth,  
let it be ratified in heaven. AMEN