

BRINGING IT HOME

Live Your Promise

On Sunday, we renewed our Baptismal Covenant through a series of questions, to which we responded, "I will, with God's help." Choose one, two or all five and be specific about the help you need from God to live it out. And then, take action!

Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

God, I need your help to _____

Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

God, I need your help to _____

Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

God, I need your help to _____

Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

God, I need your help to _____

Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

God, I need your help to _____

SERMON NOTES

1. In what area of your life do you need the power of the Holy Spirit most today?
2. Which of the questions in the "Baptismal Covenant" do you find most challenging for you?
3. What one thing could you do this next week to live into that question more fully?

DIGGING DEEPER

If you don't typically spend time as a group discussing your answers to the questions on the front page of the Study Guide, do that today.

This is the first of three times that Jesus predicts his death. He is preparing the disciples for what was going to happen to him.

Read Matthew 16:21-28

1. How do you think Jesus knew how the story would turn out? What does it say about Him and us that He was willing to suffer on our behalf?
2. Why do you think Peter answered as he did in verse 22? What would you have said?
3. Jesus' response seems harsh. Why do you think He answered like that? What does He mean?
4. What do verses 24-25 mean? How does that look in ordinary life?
5. Make a list of three ways that you personally could "deny yourself and take up your cross". Share them with the group.
6. In verse 26 Jesus challenges our priorities or values. In what area of your life do you think it is hardest to make God your number one priority? Why is that? What could help us change that?

LIFE CHECK

1. Where did you see God at work in your life this week? Consider the following questions as you think about God working in your spiritual, home, work and social life.

How were you blessed this week?

Did God prompt you to bless someone this week? How did they respond?

How has God answered prayer?

Did you seek God's will and obey?

Did God speak to you through Scripture, a person, or in some other way? What happened?

How did God work in and through you to share your faith this week through words and/or actions?

2. What action might you take this week to draw closer to God and see Him at work in your life?

PRAY

Heavenly Father, in you we live and move and have our being: We humbly pray you so to guide and govern us by your Holy Spirit, that in all the cares and occupations of our life we may not forget you, but may remember that we are ever walking in your sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.* BCP, p. 102