

# Devotion Guide

July 24<sup>th</sup> - July 29<sup>th</sup>



## Faith Workcamps

2005

*For the past 14 years, Faith Presbyterian Church has participated in Group Publishing's summer Work camp program. The primary goal is the spiritual growth of high school and college-aged students. Workcamps are an intensive week of community service offering teenagers an opportunity to perform hands-on home-repair projects for low income families. Projects include carpentry, roof repair, step and porch construction, weatherization, wheelchair ramp construction, painting, and drywall work.*

*As the youth serve, their confidence and character can grow like never before. Their faith ignites as they complete hands-on, meaningful work that really counts, and they discover a genuine appreciation for all God has given them. Some residents must choose between putting food on the table and fixing a leaky roof. The real repairs, however, are done not to the homes, but to the lives of those they touch.*

*This year we head for Marshfield, MA a historic suburb of Boston. Edward Winslow, a Mayflower passenger, was it's founder in the early 1630's. Like many New England towns, historic buildings, river ways and landmarks have been preserved. Marshfield is a coastal community with five ocean beaches which is why the population almost doubles in the summer months. Due to escalating housing and living costs in the Boston area, many who are elderly and/or disabled, single parents, or low-income families struggle to meet their basic needs. Homes have become run-down and costly repairs have remained undone.*

*This booklet will guide us through the verses that are the primary focus of this summers devotions at Work camp. We set aside time at lunch, during the evening program, and at bedtime to really focus on these verses to help our faith grow and we hope you will do the same. Each day's scripture verses correspond with the focus at Work camp for that particular day (July 24-29) so you can have an understanding of what is happening in Marshfield, MA.*

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## LIVING INSIDE OUT

*By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things.*

- Galatians 5:22-23

Picture a colorful bowl of fruit. It may contain the colors red, orange, and yellow, all rich in color. Each has its own value, its own beauty. Together this colorful fruit bowl can brighten our day. Now imagine this colorful bowl of fruit when you think of the fruit of the Spirit. Like the colors of the fruit bowl, these tend to brighten our life and bring blessings.

Just prior to this list, Paul lists fruits of the flesh, including hatred, dissention, and selfish ambition. Just as real fruit spoils, it is important to take care of our fruits of the Spirit, that they may not spoil and become fruits of the flesh. Love can lead to hate, joy to sadness, peace to chaos.

The amazing thing is that our spiritual fruit increases with use. The more spiritual fruit we share with others, the more we find in our own bowl. As Christians, we display many fruits at different times.

Likewise every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them.

- Matthew 7:17-18, 20

### FOOD FOR THOUGHT:

This week we will be sharing our *fruits* with our residents and youth from all across the world. Take some time now to discuss what ways you plan to share your fruits this week. How can we make it a point to be more giving of ourselves?

## GOODNESS

*He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?* - Micah 6:8

It is simple. Scripture tells us what is good.

To do justice – to do the right thing.

To love kindness or mercy – to treat others kindly, even to the extent of forgiveness.

To walk humbly with our God – to simply walk, not rushing through, with our God, recognizing that we are never alone, but that He is always walking with us, acting as our Protector.

Our service to others grows out of the fruit of the Spirit. Some versions translate the Greek “goodness”, others “generosity”. This latter translation entails a giving of one’s self to another. This generosity is a result of compassion – a compassion for our brother or sister in need. When we see this, the right thing to do (justice) is to try and help. Not only in our physical actions, but in our kindness towards each other. Recognize that while you are helping, you are serving as God’s hands. For together we make up the body of Christ. How awesome that He is walking with *you*, that He has chosen *you* to be His hands!

Goodness is love in action, love with its hand to the plow, love with the burden on its back, love following his footsteps who went about continually doing good.

- James Hamilton

### THINK ABOUT IT:

It is often very difficult to know exactly what the right thing to do is. We are constantly making decisions not all of which are correct. An important part of life is learning from the past. Think of a time when you have faced a situation where you may not have walked the path God would have preferred. How have you learned from this situation?

## LOVE

*This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends.* - John 15:12-13

We love because God first loved us (1 John 4:19). This unconditional love comes out of us when we are filled with the Holy Spirit (in Greek, agape: divine love). A love that always looks on the positive side of life. A love that sees the potential in each individual's life.

Christ calls us to a higher level of love than the world does. In fact, not only are we to love our neighbors, our friends, but we are to love our enemies - Matthew 5:44

"Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person – though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. But God proves his love in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us." - Romans 5:7-8

Human beings judge one another by their external actions; God judges them by their moral choices. At the Final Judgment, who but God is to say?

For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me... Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.

- Matthew 25:35-36, 40

### SOMETHING TO DISCUSS:

Why does Christ call us to love even our enemies? To yourself, think of someone whom you are having difficulty loving. Write down two or three qualities of this person that show you Christ in them. The next time you see this person, focus on these traits.

## SELF-CONTROL

*Athletes exercise self-control in all things; they do it to receive a perishable garland, but we an imperishable one.*

- 1 Corinthians 9:25

What better prize is there than an eternity with God?

Do you not know that in a race the runners all compete, but only one receives the prize? *Run in such a way that you may win it.* Athletes exercise self-control in all things; they do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable one. So I do not run aimlessly, nor do I box as though beating the air; but I punish my body and enslave it, so that after proclaiming to others I myself should not be disqualified.

- 1 Corinthians 9:24-27 (emphasis added)

Living a Christian life is not easy. We are surrounded at every edge by temptation. And just when we think we're clear of temptation, it sneaks up on us (see C.S. Lewis's Screwtape Letters). Just like when the second place runner pulls ahead at the end of the race.

The incredible news is that, unlike in a race, we all have the ability to finish in first and receive the prize. This is not to say it is easy – there are so many obstacles that can pull us behind.

Think of an Olympic athlete who has trained his or her entire life to get where they are today. Growing up, when others were playing with friends, many of these athletes were waking up at dawn for training before school, only to return after school for a few more hours of training. Think of how easy it would have been for them to give up. Or, just to skip a practice to go watch a movie with friends. But they had a prize in mind – they had a dream.

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What an awesome parallel to our spiritual life. Athletes who are in intensive training have a true dedication. Look at your life. Can you see this self-control in your spiritual life? Just as the athlete has to exercise self-control, so do we. Not only does winning a race require purpose, but discipline. For us, this is practicing spiritual disciplines, such as prayer, study of Scripture and worship, to name a few.

May we have the dedication of these athletes in training when it comes to our training for the kingdom.

God is waiting eagerly to respond with new strength to each little act of self-control, small disciplines of prayer, feeble searching for Him. And His children shall be filled if they will only hunger and thirst after what He offers.

- Richard Holloway

#### SOMETHING TO SHARE:

Find a passage from Scripture you do not already know. Make it a goal to learn the passage by heart. After camp, share this passage with your partner and hear the scripture they chose and how it moved them.

## JOY

*If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.* - John 15:10-11

Some words may be emotion, gladness, rejoice, delight. "Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart" (Psalm 37:4). Joy could be this resulting emotion when the Lord does fulfill those desires of your heart. But joy goes beyond that – at least, Christ's joy does.

When things are going well, it is our human nature to feel elated. When hardships come, we sink into depression. But true joy – Christ's joy – transcends these changing flows of life. Joy comes from a consistent relationship with Jesus Christ. When our lives intertwine with His, He will help us walk through the ups and the downs.

Do you ever notice how joyful some people are despite their circumstances? They may not know where the food for that night is going to come from, but still, something shines in them. Or they are eager to walk miles to church for an evening prayer service.

So easily we draw away from appreciating what God has given us. Yet those who appear to have nothing still shine. That is the joy of the Lord – the joy of the Spirit – shining from within.

I challenge you to approach this day with the words of Psalm 118:24, "This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it."

### SHINING FROM WITHIN

What words come to mind when you think of joy? Take some time to discuss the following:



## FAITHFULNESS

*His master replied, "Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share in your master's happiness."*

- Matthew 25:21 (NIV)

What does it mean to be a faithful servant? This passage is often known as the Parable of the Talents. The master entrusted three servants with money. The one with five talents invested and put his money to work and doubled his amount. The one with two talents did likewise. The third, with one talent, returned to his master with the same amount entrusted to him. It was the first two to whom the master replied with the above. Not only did they not lose what he had given them, but they had increased it.

Isn't it interesting that the monetary value here is "talents"? Just as this master entrusted his servants with talents (monetary), so God has entrusted us with talents.

For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us." - Romans 12:4-6

Wherever your talents may lie – in speaking, in compassion, in service, in finances, ... the list goes on – God is calling you to be a good steward of those talents. Use your talents and don't let them go to waste so that He may say to *you*, "well done, good and faithful servant."

### THE ONE THING:

What stands out as something God has provided for you throughout this week? Although it should not be your motivation, often times a byproduct of serving the Lord is personal satisfaction and gain. Workcampers, what are you taking away from this experience that you'd like to share with your partner? Sponsors, what do you want to know about the Workcampers' experiences?

TITLE

*Above all, maintain constant love for one another, for love covers a multitude of sins. Be hospitable to one another without complaining. Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. Whoever speaks must do so as one speaking the very words of God; whoever serves must do so with the strength that God supplies, so that God may be glorified in all things through Jesus Christ. To him belong the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen.*

- 1 Peter 4:8-11

Following is an email that was sent out several years ago:

I SEE JESUS: Through the Eyes of a Child

I saw Jesus last week:

He was wearing blue jeans and an old shirt,

He was up at the church, building;

He was alone and working hard.

For just a minute, He looked like one of our members,

But it was Jesus – I could tell by His smile.

I saw Jesus last Sunday:

He was teaching a Bible class.

He didn't talk really loud or use long words,

But you could tell He believed what He said.

For just a minute, He looked like my Sunday School teacher,

But it was Jesus – I could tell by His loving voice.

I saw Jesus yesterday:

He was at the hospital visiting a friend who was sick.

They prayed together quietly.

For just a minute, He looked like Brother Jones,

But it was Jesus – I could tell by the tears in His eyes.

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I saw Jesus this morning:  
He was in my kitchen making my breakfast  
And fixing me a special lunch.  
For just a minute, He looked like my mom,  
But it was Jesus – I could feel the love from His heart.

I see Jesus everywhere:  
Taking food to the sick,  
Welcoming others to His home,  
Being friendly to a newcomer ...  
And, for just a minute, I think He's someone I know.  
But it's always Jesus – I can tell by the way He serves.

Lord, help us realize how we can serve you. Whether it be some service like in this last week with the Work camp, or just welcoming an outsider. Help us recognize in our own lives how we may set an example for others, that they may desire to serve You.

As we read earlier in Romans, we are told we are all members of the same body. Help us recognize our talents and understand what unique part we have in serving Your Kingdom.

## **2005 Workcampers**

Dan Hemberger  
Larry Hemberger  
Stephanie Hutzayluk  
Jayme Ingram  
Lynn Ingram  
Eric Lillegard  
Jim Lillegard  
Stephanie Lillegard  
Tiffany Lillegard  
Esther Marchetti  
Alison McCracken  
Bret Moss  
Kelly Trop  
Justin Yen

**Thank you very much for supporting Faith Workcamps! Know that your support is helping to change not only the lives of Faith Presbyterian's Workcampers, but the lives of all who come in contact with them throughout the week and in the future. Please pray for our safety during this physical and spiritual journey. We will depart from Faith Presbyterian Church in Emmaus, PA at 7:45 AM on July 23rd and invite all of you to attend our send off service. We will return from Marshfield, MA in the afternoon of July 30th.**