

## MID-WEEK REFLECTION 3

*“At Our Savior’s Way Lutheran Church, we make disciples by sharing God’s love.”*

### GETTING STARTED:

What is one of your very best childhood memories?

### DIGGING DEEPER:

#### **Sharing Jesus’s love forces us to go beyond our comfort zone.**

**Mark 6:6b-13** *Then Jesus set around teaching from village to village. Calling the Twelve to him, he sent them out two by two and gave them authority over evil spirits. These were his instructions: “Take nothing for the journey except a staff, no bread, no bag, no money in your belts. Wear sandals but not an extra tunic. Whenever you enter a house, stay there until you leave that town. And if any place will not welcome you or listen to you, shake the dust off your feet when you leave, as a testimony against them.” They went out and preached that people should repent. They drove out many demons and anointed many sick people with oil and healed them.*

**Question:** Long before Jesus ascended into heaven, He entrusted His disciples with doing ministry. Jesus gave them opportunities to serve and shared His authority through their service. As part of their training Jesus cared for His disciples by sending them out two by two and encouraged them to take nothing for their journey. How did these actions grow the disciples’ faith? How does serving help grow faith?

In your Bible read the whole story of Philip and the Ethiopian eunuch (Acts 8: 26-40). (*Below is only an excerpt of Philip’s story*).

**Acts 8:30-35** *Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. “Do you understand what you are reading?” Philip asked. “How can I,” he said, “unless someone explains it to me?” So, he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. The eunuch was reading this passage of Scripture: “He was led like a sheep to the slaughter and as a lamb before the shearer is silent, so he did not open his mouth. In his humiliation he was deprived of justice. Who can speak of his descendants? For his life was taken from the earth.” The eunuch asked Philip “Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?” Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus.”*

#### **Sharing Jesus’s love with those who do not know him.**

**Matthew 7:6** *Jesus said, “Do not give dogs what is sacred; do not throw your pearls to pigs. If you do, they may trample them under their feet, and then turn and tear you to pieces”.*

God calls us to share our faith but Jesus encouraged us to do this wisely. Sharing our faith with someone who is not open to hearing our message is not very fruitful.

**Question:** What can we learn about sharing our faith wisely from Philip's interaction with the Ethiopian eunuch? How did Philip know the Eunuch was open to hearing the gospel? In a conversation what kind of questions might we ask to help a person grow in faith?

**Sharing God's love takes sacrifice.**

No one will know what you mean when you say, "God is love," unless you show it.

Read the following passages which express the Apostle Paul's dedication to share the message of God's love.

**Acts 20:22-24** *And now compelled by the Spirit, I am going to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there. I only know that in every city the Holy Spirit warns me that prison and hardships are facing me. However, I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given to me. The task of testifying to the gospel of God's grace.*

**Philippians 3:7-11** *But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ — the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead.*

**Colossians 3:23-24** *Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.*

**Colossians 4:5-6** *Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone*

**Question:** What sacrifices were made for you to know God's love in Jesus Christ?

**Question:** What sacrifices are you making so other may know Him?