



Worship Plan

A God-Lived Life

- A Life of Being a Disciple
- A Life Lived for Others
- A Life of Hospitality
- A Life Lived Shrewdly

God became man and lived life in our place. Christ lived the perfect God-lived life. Living as a *Christian*, a little Christ, we have the privilege of demonstrating what God looks like in how we live our lives, in living lives that show God. For the next four months, God's Word will be challenging us, and we'll be challenging one another to live a God-lived life. And that encompasses everything. We're talking about a life of being a disciple, a life lived for others, a life of hospitality, and a life lived shrewdly.

Note: The Gathering Rite is reused each week with slight adjustments.

Month 1 - The God-lived Life is a Life of Being a Disciple

Key Concept: Stewardship of the Truth

In today's worship, the particular emphasis of the God-lived life is that of *being* a disciple, a learner, one who grows in God's Word. May God's Word cause us to crave that pure spiritual milk so that by it we grow up in our salvation.

This month, we focus especially on ways to strengthen our following of Jesus.

Gospel - Luke 18:9-17* - Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector

In the Gospel Lesson, we see an example of someone who appeared to live a God-lived life but was living for himself. The one who trusted in the life God lived for him went home to live a truly God-lived life.

First Reading - 2 Chronicles 34:1-2, 14-21, 29-33[#]

Here we have the account of Israel's Confirmation Day. The Word was found. The Word was read. The Word changed their hearts and they committed to live according to it. May we do the same.

Second Reading – 1 Peter 1:22–2:3⁺

The truth of God’s Word changes us to live God-lived lives, to love one another and to live the life of a disciple of the Word.

Psalm 1^{##}

Gospel Acclamation

Proverbs 1:7 – The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction.

Note: If doing a full-length service, use the readings as appointed. If following the suggestion for an in-service Bible study, see below:

**This lesson is read during shortened service.*

+This lesson serves as sermon text.

#This lesson is the basis for 19-minute Bible Study.

##This is dropped.

Hymns

Opening Gathering Rite (CW 467)

Hymn of the Day – CWS 735 – Speak O Lord

Closing Hymn – CW 500 – For Christian Homes, O Lord, We Pray

Alternates/Hymns for daily devotions

CW 283 – Speak, O Savior; I Am Listening

CW 293 – God’s Word Is Our Great Heritage

CW 290 – One Thing’s Needful

CW 469 – Take My Life and Let It Be

CW 289 – Preserve Your Word, O Savior

Related readings

2 Peter 3:10–18

Colossians 2:6–7

Month 2 – The God-Lived Life is a Life Lived for Others

Key Concept: Stewardship of Talent – Service

In today’s worship, the particular emphasis of the God-lived life is a life lived *for others*. In our Gospel, Jesus answers “Who is my neighbor?” God allows us opportunity to serve and love one another. We get to show his love by sacrificing and serving all those around us.

This month, we focus especially on ways to serve our communities.

Gospel - Luke 10:25-37⁺ - Parable of the Good Samaritan

There are two temptations when it comes to serving others in our community. One is not to do it because you consider your time and sacrifice more important than them. The other is to do it because you consider yourself better than them, so they need your help. In the Good Samaritan and in the teller of the parable we don't see judgment, but the love of God. May we show the same.

First Reading - Acts 9:36-42[#] - Dorcas

Dorcas demonstrates what a God-lived life looks like. She lived for others and the people saw God's love in her. They showed the apostles the "robes and other clothing" she had made for them. What are your "robes and other clothing" —the ways that show you are living Jesus' love?

Second Reading - 1 Thessalonians 4:9-12* - Daily life wins the respect of outsiders

God teaches you to love each other and encourages you to live the God-lived life more and more.

Psalm 41^{##}

Gospel Acclamation

Proverbs 14:21 - It is a sin to despise one's neighbor, but blessed is the one who is kind to the needy.

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Hymns

Opening Gathering Rite (CW 467)

Hymn of the Day - CW 486 - Lord of Glory, You Have Brought Us

Closing Hymn - CW 484 - Brothers, Sisters, Let Us Gladly

Alternates/Hymns for daily devotions:

CW 490 - Love in Christ Is Strong and Living

CWS 732 - We Are Singing

CW 459 - O God, My Faithful God

Related readings:

Matthew 20:25-28

Philippians 2:1-11

Month 3 - The God-Lived Life is a Life of Hospitality

Key Concept: Stewardship of Talent - Hospitality

The God-lived life is a life of *showing* God's love. Last month, we focused on letting that shine in serving others, doing things for them. In today's worship, the emphasis shifts a bit, and we look at the God-lived life as one that isn't only doing things for others but *opening our lives* to them. As we invite people into our lives and our homes, God gives us opportunities to show what we are all about and share who we are all about. Through hospitality, as messy and dangerous as it can be, relationships are built, and Jesus is shared.

This month, we focus especially on relationships in our lives that show and share Jesus.

Gospel - Matthew 9:9-13⁺ - Matthew's Party

Jesus shows ultimate hospitality in inviting the tax collector to follow him. Matthew responds with the God-lived life by inviting his friends to his house and to Jesus.

First Reading - Genesis 18:1-15* - Abraham Hosts the Three Visitors

Abraham demonstrates a God-lived life, sacrificing hours and possessions to welcome strangers to his home. Led by God, we ought not hesitate to sacrifice for hospitality.

Second Reading - Acts 2:42-47[#] - The Church in Jerusalem

Motivated by Jesus' life for them, the early believers naturally lived hospitable lives, sharing their possessions, meeting in their homes, showing what God looks like. And others took notice.

Psalm 133 - 134^{##}

Gospel Acclamation

Hebrews 13:2 - Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it.

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Hymns

Opening Gathering Rite (CW 467)

Hymn of the Day - CW 494 - Blest Be the Tie that Binds

Closing Hymn - CWS 773 - In Unity and Peace

Alternates/Hymns for daily devotions

CW 454 – I Gave My Life for Thee
CW 496 – Glorious in Majesty
CW 484 – Brothers, Sisters, Let Us Gladly
CW 499 – O God of Mercy, God of Might

Related readings

Luke 14:12-24
James 2

Month 4 – The God-Lived Life is a Life Lived Shrewdly

Key Concept: Stewardship of Treasure

While stewardship of our finances isn't the only part of stewardship, it is a part of it. Today God's Word encourages us to use all of the financial gifts God has given us with an eye on our purpose. May God grant us grace to use money for what really matters!

This month, we focus on wise ways to use the resources God has given us for the greatest good.

Gospel: Luke 16:1-15⁺ – The Parable of the Shrewd Manager

Jesus tells a parable about a shrewd manager to make this single point: A God-lived life uses its resources for God's purposes.

First Reading – 2 Kings 4:8-17* – The Shunnamite Woman

A godly woman used her resources for what really matters. She wasn't giving to get, she was giving to support ministry.

Second Reading – 1 Timothy 6:6-19[#] – Instructions on Stewardship of Money

The love of money and what it can buy can be destructive, but the shrewd use of the resources God gives can bring immeasurable blessing. God wants us to be rich in good deeds and generous.

Psalm 16^{##}

Gospel Acclamation

Proverbs 19:4 – Wealth brings many friends, but a poor man's friend deserts him.

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Hymns

Opening Gathering Rite (CW 467)

Hymn of the Day - CW 477 - What Is the World to Me

Closing Hymn - CW 341 - Crown Him with Many Crowns

Alternates/Hymns for daily devotions

CW 421 - All Depends on Our Possessing

CW 444 - If You But Trust in God to Guide You

CW 456 - Forth in Your Name, O Lord I Go

CW 563 - Go Labor On

CWS 757 - Where Your Treasure Is

Related readings:

Matthew 6:25-34

Acts 16:11-15