

# 12<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

Aug. 14, 2023 -  
Aug. 20, 2023

**SCRIPTURE:** Matthew 15:21-28

**THEME:** A Church for All People

**SONG:** CW21 855 / CW93 538 - The Church's One Foundation

**VISUAL:** A party invitation

## OBJECT LESSON

Who likes to be invited to parties? (Hold up/ display a party invitation.) Parties often have yummy food, presents, maybe even a bounce house. People get together to celebrate major events throughout their life. Being left out from a party feels terrible. Being the one person who doesn't get an invitation makes you feel like you don't belong.

## BIBLE TRUTH

The church is a place for everyone. (Read Matthew 15: 21-28 aloud). The saving truth of God's Word is for everyone as we hear in the lesson. The woman knew she was sinful and needed the Savior she was meeting. She lived in a place where she heard others talking about Jesus and the Holy Spirit worked faith in her heart. The woman was persistent in her plea for Jesus' help to save her daughter. Her faith was evident to Jesus and Jesus healed her daughter.

## DISCUSSION AND APPLICATIONS

We sometimes might think the church is only a place for believers. Jesus shows us that God wants the church to be for everyone. We are all afflicted with the same problem of sin and need God's mercy and grace to save us. The church is for you. The church is for me. The church is for all sinners who come before God seeking mercy and forgiveness.

## PRAYER

Dear Lord, you promise to hear us when we come before you. Fill us with your Word and hear our repentant prayer for mercy. Help your church grow so others may know of your forgiveness and grace. In your name we pray, Amen.



**HEART  
IMPRINTS**

# 13<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

Aug. 21, 2023 -  
Aug. 27, 2023

**SCRIPTURE:** Matthew 16:13-20

**THEME:** A Church That Really Knows Jesus

**SONG:** CW21 510 - In Christ Alone

**VISUAL:** Image of Google search bar

## OBJECT LESSON

What is the height of Mount Everest? Do worms ever fall asleep? How do you learn to play the violin? When you need to find out some new information, where do you look? (Show an image of the Google search bar.) Today, many people use Google and the Internet to help find information. If you don't know something, you have to find the information somewhere: books, internet, or asking other people.

## BIBLE TRUTH

We can learn many different things in God's Word. But most importantly, God wants us to really know Jesus. (Read Matthew 16:13-20 aloud.) Who is Jesus? It seems to be a simple question, but Jesus even posed the question to his own disciples. Peter gives the answer we all need to hear. Jesus is both Lord and Savior, Messiah, the Son of the Living God. Knowing Jesus as Lord and Savior is the belief that God wants in his church. This belief is what we study and learn when we gather together around God's Word both at home and at school.

## DISCUSSION AND APPLICATIONS

How do we learn about Jesus? We learn by diligently studying His Word. We don't need Google or the Internet to tell us about our Savior, we just need the Word of God. That Word gives us the knowledge that Jesus is both Lord and Savior, that he is true God and true man who died on the cross to rescue us from sin, death, and hell. God gives us pastors and teachers to help learn His Word. The Holy Spirit plants and strengthens faith in our hearts when we spend time in his Word.

## PRAYER

Dear Lord, help me to know you as my Lord and Savior. Help the church be a church that knows who you are. Keep believers connected to you and help unbelievers come to know you as their Lord and Savior. In your name we pray, Amen.



**HEART  
IMPRINTS**

# 14<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

Aug. 28, 2023–  
Sept. 3, 2023

**SCRIPTURE:** Matthew 16:21–26

**THEME:** A Church That Takes Up Its Crosses

**SONG:** CW21 831/ CW93 428– Why Should Cross and Trial Grieve Me

**VISUAL:** Image of someone sick in bed or a thermometer

## OBJECT LESSON

When was the last time you had a bad day? What made it so bad? Maybe you were sick (show photo), got in trouble with your parents, forgot to study for a test, or left your lunch at home. When bad things happen, we often ask “Why me? What did I do to deserve this?” We wonder if we were nicer to others or tried harder, our lives would then be filled with wonderful, carefree days.

## BIBLE TRUTH

God wants his church to take up its crosses. Jesus reminds his disciples to focus on heavenly matters and not earthly matters. (Read Matthew 16:21-26 aloud.) Imagine being there when Jesus tells Peter to get behind him. Jesus reminds his disciples again that they must deny themselves and take up their crosses. The disciples would face many hardships in their lives.

## DISCUSSION AND APPLICATIONS

Do you take up your crosses? Do you accept your bad days along with all the good ones? It can be a struggle for us to carry our crosses and troubles, but when we turn to Christ, we rely on him and his strength to carry us. Jesus willingly carried the cross of our sins and died so we may have eternal life. We can willingly accept our crosses as we follow Jesus. God uses them to see how much we need Jesus’ cross and directs us back to his Word for comfort and strength.

## PRAYER

Dear Lord, help me take up my crosses willingly. Help me in times of struggle to rely on you instead of myself. Thank you for taking up your cross and my sin. Keep my eyes focused on you so I can use my days here on earth to help spread your Word. In your name we pray, Amen.



**HEART  
IMPRINTS**

# 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

Sept. 4, 2023-  
Sept. 10, 2023

**SCRIPTURE:** Matthew 18:15-20

**THEME:** A Church Willing to Say Hard Things

**SONG:** CW21 654/ CW93 304- Jesus Sinners Does Receive

**VISUAL:** Photo of toys on shelves

## OBJECT LESSON

Imagine walking down the aisle of your favorite store. Does your favorite store have an aisle that looks like this (show photo of toy aisle)? This is probably the favorite part of the store for most of you. When you ask if you can get a toy, what do your parents probably say to you? My guess is that they said, "No!" Being told no can be difficult to hear time and time again.

## BIBLE TRUTH

Just as your parents, friends, and family sometimes tell you no, God uses his Word to give warnings as well. (Read Matthew 18: 15-20). God's directions on how to handle people with sinful habits are clear. Pointing out people's faults can be difficult, but God wants the church to be willing to say difficult things. Saying hard things can often lead to people becoming upset or angry. The church needs to say hard things as people's eternal life in heaven depends on it.

## DISCUSSION AND APPLICATIONS

Are you willing to say difficult things? Would you approach a friend or family member who is doing something wrong? With the help of God, we need to talk to others about sin. Would you also listen if someone comes to you about a sinful habit you are doing? With the help of God, we need to listen to others about ourselves. Being in situations like that can be extremely difficult and confrontational, but are for our own good. We show love when we deal with sin as God instructs. We want people to recognize what they have done wrong. And then we can tell people that Jesus forgives them.

## PRAYER

Dear Lord, give us the strength to confront sin the way you instruct. Help us to be the church willing to say hard things so people's faith and focus remain on you as the Savior of the world. In your name we pray, Amen.



**HEART  
IMPRINTS**

# 16<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

Sept. 11, 2023-  
Sept. 17, 2023

**SCRIPTURE:** Matthew 18:21-35

**THEME:** A Church That's Quick to Forgive

**SONG:** CW21 731- Oh, How Good It Is

**VISUAL:** I'm sorry greeting card or the words "I'm Sorry" displayed

## OBJECT LESSON

When was the last time you said these words, "I'm Sorry?" Maybe it was today already, yesterday, or a couple days ago. Why do people say those words? It is a way to show someone that you actually care about your actions and how they affect others. It's a way to acknowledge you sinned against God.

## BIBLE TRUTH

God wants us to be a church that is quick to forgive. (Read Matthew 18: 21-35.) Jesus uses the parable of the unforgiving servant to demonstrate how the church should forgive. Forgiveness comes with no attachments. God freely gives his grace to those who repent, so no one should act like the unforgiving servant in the parable. God paid an expensive price- the blood of his own Son, to grant us forgiveness.

## DISCUSSION AND APPLICATIONS

Can you possibly count how many sins you commit in a day? A week? God forgives us for each and every one of them when we repent. The truth is that others in the world may not be as forgiving as we would like. People hold grudges, seek revenge, and withhold forgiveness against those who wrong them. Sometimes, we may hold grudges and not be willing to forgive. God wants people in his church to be quick to forgive and we should quickly forgive others, just as God forgave us. This is what we're praying in the Lord's Prayer, "Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us."

## PRAYER

Dear Lord, help us to be a church that is quick to forgive. Forgive us for the times when we hold grudges and seek revenge on those who sin against us. We thank you for forgiving us our sins at the price of your death on the cross. In your name we pray, Amen.



**HEART  
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