

# 3

**Partners in the Gospel**

**Week Three**

**Daily Devotions**

**& Small Group Study**



**Partners Who See Others as God Sees Them**

**September 30 – October 6, 2007**



St. Paul's Lutheran Church, S.66 W.14325 Janesville Road, Muskego, WI 53150  
414-422-0320 [www.stpaulmuskego.org](http://www.stpaulmuskego.org)

## Study Overview



The apostle Paul gave thanks for the Philippian Christians' partnership in the gospel (Philippians 1:4,5). As we begin a 40-day focus on ministry, let us also give thanks to God for the partnership in the gospel that we enjoy together. We are partners with God in the grandest work of all – proclaiming his glory and drawing everyone around us closer to Jesus Christ our Savior. May the Holy Spirit work in us through our study of God's Word in the next 40 days. May he prepare us for greater works of service that will give witness to Christ and glorify our Father.

To become more faithful partners with Christ, we will look at six weekly topics:

1. **Partners who see themselves as God sees them.** Because you are God's partner, it is important to understand your relationship with him.
2. **Partners who understand the time.** As God's partner, you will want to understand the urgency of God's work.
3. **Partners who see others as God sees them.** To treat others the way your Partner wants, look at them through his eyes.
4. **Partners who understand their personal ministry.** The Old Testament priesthood is a model to help you understand your partnership in the gospel.
5. **Partners who understand their SHAPE.** The SHAPE acronym will help you see that you are a unique partner in God's work.
6. **Partners who understand their call.** Every Christian is God's partner in the gospel. It is a special privilege when Christ calls you through the church to serve in the public ministry.

We will use God's Word in four ways during these next forty days.

- Weekly messages in worship that focus our attention on the topic for the week
- Daily scripture readings and devotions distributed in weekly devotional booklets
- Weekly small group Bible studies
- Weekly memory passages that grasp the key thought for the week.

You will benefit the most if you make use of all these growth opportunities. Please note that if you are unable to attend worship on a weekend, you may watch the message on our website [www.stpaulmuskego.org](http://www.stpaulmuskego.org). You may also download the weekly devotions/small group study there as well. If you do not have internet access, you may stop by the church/school office for a weekly devotions/small group study booklet and a copy of the sermon. You may also call and we will mail a booklet to you.

May God bless our study together of our partnership in the gospel.



## WEEK 3 – FELLOWSHIP

**Partners Who See Others as God Sees Them**

**Daily Devotions & Week 3 Small Group Study**

### Table of Contents

Page 2	Study Overview
Page 3	Table of Contents
Page 4	Day 15 <b>Clothe Yourself with Christ</b>
Page 5	Day 16 <b>Have Confidence in Each Other</b>
Page 6	Day 17 <b>You Are Your Brother's Keeper</b>
Page 7	Day 18 <b>Welcome Christian Admonition</b>
Page 8	Day 19 <b>Forgive Just as in Christ God Forgave You</b>
Page 9	Day 20 <b>Cross Cultural Barriers</b>
Page 10	Day 21 <b>Greatness Through Serving</b>
Pages 11-16	<b>Week 3 Small Group Study</b>

**Week Three Memory Passage:** “Love does no harm to its neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfilling of the law” (Romans 13:10).



## Week 3 – Partners Who See Others as God Sees Them

### Devotion for Day 15 – Sunday, Sept. 30<sup>th</sup> Clothe Yourself with Christ



#### The Word: Romans 13:8-14

Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for he who loves his fellowman has fulfilled the law. The commandments, “Do not commit adultery,” “Do not murder,” “Do not steal,” “Do not covet,” and whatever other commandment there may be, are summed up in this one rule: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” Love does no harm to its neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.

And do this, understanding the present time. The hour has come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature.



#### Meditate

Last week as we considered Matthew 25:31-46, we were asked, “Did you see Jesus?” The question is reversed this week. Do those around you see Jesus when they see you?

Jesus was not afraid to associate with the “lower class” of people in Israel, the prostitutes and sinners. He wasn’t afraid to touch the lepers. He talked with Samaritans and Gentiles. He never gave up on his slow-to-understand disciples. He entrusted them with the greatest work imaginable – to be partners in the gospel.

Paul tells us to “clothe ourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ.” As you go out of your home, make sure you have on the right clothes. Clothe yourself with the Lord Jesus Christ. Put on his kind of love. Let your family members, your neighbors, your friends see Christ through your actions.



#### Pray

Consider whom you expect to meet this week. Are there any interactions you are dreading? Is it because you are struggling to love that person as yourself? Confess your sins and find renewal in Christ’s forgiveness. Then pray that you might be a blessing to that individual. May she/he see Christ’s love through you.



## Week 3 – Partners Who See Others as God Sees Them

### Devotion for Day 16 – Monday, Oct. 1<sup>st</sup> Have Confidence in Each Other



#### The Word: Philippians 1:3-7

I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart; for whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God's grace with me.



#### Meditate

Have confidence in your fellow Christians.

One of the struggles that we have in dealing with other people is that they have disappointed us so often. A husband tells his wife that he is going to change – and nothing changes in their relationship. A co-worker promises to get a job done, and doesn't. Just like he failed you last week! A friend says she'll meet you at the mall, only to call at the last minute because something "better" has come up for her to do.

People are incredibly frustrating!

Paul could have said the same thing about the Philippians. Two of their leading women, Euodia and Syntyche, were arguing (Philippians 4:2). They probably weren't the only ones who were complaining and arguing (Philippians 2:14). That could have been the focus of Paul's thoughts about the Philippians.

But instead, Paul had confidence in them. His confidence was not based in the innate goodness of the Philippians. It was based on the power of the gospel. God had begun the good work of faith in the Philippians. And he was confident that the same Holy Spirit would preserve them in their faith in Christ.

To have a strong partnership with our fellow Christians in the gospel work, look at each other through Christ. Christ has forgiven them. Christ has worked the miracle of faith in them. Christ will continue to work that miracle of faith in them.



#### Pray

Give thanks to God the Holy Spirit for working faith in the hearts of those close to you—your family members, your Christian co-workers or classmates, your fellow members of the congregation. Join with Paul in praying for them that "your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God" (Philippians 1:9-11).



## Week 3 – Partners Who See Others as God Sees Them

### Devotion for Day 17 – Tuesday, Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup> You Are Your Brother's Keeper!



#### The Word: Matthew 18:15-20

“If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over. But if he will not listen, take one or two others along, so that ‘every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.’ If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, treat him as you would a pagan or a tax collector.

“I tell you the truth, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them.”



#### Meditate

You are your brother's keeper!

Sin tore apart the first nuclear family: Adam, Eve, Cain and Abel. Cain allowed jealousy to grow in his heart. It produced the fruit of murder. When the LORD called Cain to account, he asked, “Where is your brother Abel?”

Cain's response was an effort to dismiss his responsibility. “Am I my brother's keeper?”

Sin continues to tear apart God's family. How sad that there are brothers and sisters in Christ who are angry with each other and can hardly speak to each other! How can we serve as partners together in the gospel if we aren't speaking to each other?

We can try to dismiss our responsibility like Cain did, “Am I my brother's keeper?” But that doesn't bring healing to God's family.

Part of our partnership in the gospel includes going to a brother or sister with whom we have a conflict. Perhaps the other person is caught in a sin of which he or she is unaware. Perhaps you have made some sinful assumptions yourself. Go and talk to that person whom you feel has sinned against you. Do so with the confidence that the Holy Spirit will work in that person's heart as well as your own.

What a privilege we have to be able to offer each other God's forgiveness. And when you are reconciled, the two of you can partner together in prayer. Remember Jesus' promise: “I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them.”



#### Pray

Ask the Holy Spirit to give you such love that you are willing to serve as “your brother's keeper.” Ask the Spirit to give you such love for someone who has sinned against you that you will make the first effort to bring about reconciliation.



## Week 3 – Partners Who See Others as God Sees Them

### Devotion for Day 18 – Wed., Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup> Welcome Christian Admonition



#### The Word: 2 Samuel 12:1-7, 9, 10, 13

The LORD sent Nathan to David. When he came to him, he said, “There were two men in a certain town, one rich and the other poor. The rich man had a very large number of sheep and cattle, but the poor man had nothing except one little ewe lamb he had bought. He raised it, and it grew up with him and his children. It shared his food, drank from his cup and even slept in his arms. It was like a daughter to him. Now a traveler came to the rich man, but the rich man refrained from taking one of his own sheep or cattle to prepare a meal for the traveler who had come to him. Instead, he took the ewe lamb that belonged to the poor man and prepared it for the one who had come to him.”

David burned with anger against the man and said to Nathan, “As surely as the LORD lives, the man who did this deserves to die! He must pay for that lamb four times over, because he did such a thing and had no pity.”

Then Nathan said to David, “You are the man! This is what the LORD, the God of Israel says, “I anointed you king over Israel, and delivered you from the hand of Saul... Why did you despise the word of the LORD by doing what is evil in his eyes? You struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword and took his wife to be your own. You killed him with the sword of the Ammonites. Now, therefore, the sword will never depart from your house, because you despised me and took the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your own.”

Then David said to Nathan, “I have sinned against the LORD.”



#### Meditate

It takes incredible courage to be a partner in the gospel. The prophet Nathan was courageous to confront his powerful king regarding his sins of adultery and murder.

It also takes courage to admit, “I have sinned against the LORD.”

David was a powerful king. But he was growing old. Signs of weakness could be used against him by those conspiring for the throne. Politically, this was not the time to admit to sin. He could have made excuses. Instead he humbled himself before his God and his subjects. He accepted the well-intentioned rebuke of his brother in the faith. And God forgave him his sin.

One of the reasons that we become partners in the gospel by joining a Christian congregation is so that people will love us enough to confront us. May God give us the spiritual courage to admit our sins and receive the same message that Nathan gave to David. “The Lord has put away your sin. You are not going to die” (2 Samuel 12:14).



#### Pray

Thank God for your brothers and sisters in Christ who have loved you enough to help you see your sins. Make David’s prayer your own: “Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions.... Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me” (Psalm 51:1, 10).



## Week 3 – Partners Who See Others as God Sees Them

### Devotion for Day 19 – Thurs., Oct. 4<sup>th</sup> Forgive as God Forgave You



#### **The Word: Matthew 18:21-35**

Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, “Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?”

Jesus answered, “I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times. Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him. Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt.

“The servant fell on his knees before him. ‘Be patient with me,’ he begged, ‘and I will pay back everything.’ The servant’s master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go.

“But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii. He grabbed him and began to choke him. ‘Pay back what you owe me!’ he demanded.

“His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay you back.’

“But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. When the other servants saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed and went and told their master everything that had happened.

“Then the master called the servant in. ‘You wicked servant,’ he said, ‘I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. Shouldn’t you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?’ In anger his master turned him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed.

“This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother from your heart.”



#### **Meditate**

In God’s church, you work with saints. That’s the good news.

The bad news is that they are saints in the same way that you are. They are saints because God in Christ has forgiven their sins. And they can only be saints in our eyes if we forgive them just as God has forgiven them.

But what if they do the same sin 77 times? Are we still to see them as saints?

The words of Jesus’ parable give us the answer: “Shouldn’t you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?”



#### **Pray**

Lord Jesus, help me see my brothers and sisters in the faith in the same way that you see them. You see them as holy and perfect because your forgiveness of their sins is complete. Grant me that same forgiving eyesight so that our sins do not destroy our partnership in the gospel. Amen.



## Week 3 – Partners Who See Others as God Sees Them

Devotion for Day 20 – Friday, October 5<sup>th</sup>

Cross Cultural Barriers



### The Word: Luke 10:25-37

On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. “Teacher,” he asked, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?”

“What is written in the Law?” he replied. “How do you read it?”

He answered: “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your min’; and, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’”

“You have answered correctly,” Jesus replied. “Do this and you will live”

But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”

In reply Jesus said: “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he fell into the hands of robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, took him to an inn and took care of him. The next day he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper. ‘Look after him,’ he said, ‘and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.’ Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?”

The expert in the law replied, “The one who had mercy on him.”

Jesus told him, “Go and do likewise.”



### Meditate

Samaritans and Jews didn’t mix. There was a huge cultural gap—different nationalities, different religions. Jews didn’t eat with Samaritans. They walked miles out of their way so they wouldn’t have to go through Samaritan territory.

We follow that same pattern. We tend to segregate ourselves by ethnicity: African-Americans, Hispanic-Americans, White-Americans, Asian-Americans. We segregate each other by ages: the builder generation, the boomer generation, the Gen-Xers, the Millennials. In schools there are the jocks, the geeks, the druggies. Sadly, some have observed that the most segregated part of our society is the church.

That’s what makes Jesus’ illustration so compelling for us today. Who is our neighbor? It is anyone that we see in need. The cultural barriers are Satan’s efforts to divide us. But Christ’s love wasn’t limited to “our kind of people,” and neither is ours.



### Pray

Consider a person who is in your area of influence who comes from a culture different than your own, a person of a different race, or a different age, or a different economic background. Pray that the Holy Spirit would help you see ways to put Christ’s love into action to bridge that cultural gap between the two of you.



## Week 3 – Partners Who See Others as God Sees Them

### Devotion for Day 21 – Saturday, Oct. 6<sup>th</sup> Greatness Through Serving



#### The Word: Mark 10:35-45

Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to him. “Teacher,” they said, “we want you to do for us whatever we ask.”

“What do you want me to do for you?” he asked.

They replied, “Let one of us sit at your right and the other at your left in your glory.”

“You don’t know what you are asking,” Jesus said. “Can you drink the cup I drink or be baptized with the baptism I am baptized with?”

“We can,” they answered.

Jesus said to them, “You will drink the cup I drink and be baptized with the baptism I am baptized with, but to sit at my right or left is not for me to grant. These places belong to those for whom they have been prepared.”

When the ten heard about this, they became indignant with James and John. Jesus called them together and said, “You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”



#### Meditate

Sometimes titles are alluring. President of your class at school. Supervisor at work. Member of a board at church or some other non-profit organization. We may want a position just because it sounds important.

James and John wanted a position because of the prestige it would bring: sitting at the right and left hand of Jesus when he began his powerful rule.

But greatness in God’s kingdom doesn’t come through a title. Greatness comes through service. Jesus is the greatest in his kingdom. He served by offering up his life as a ransom for us all. So too, Jesus is calling us to greatness in his kingdom through service. See each person’s need as an opportunity to put our faith into service. “How can I serve you?”



#### Pray

You have a very powerful title: Partner with Christ in the gospel. But great responsibility comes with that title. Ask the Lord to give you a heart that seeks greatness through service.



## Small Group Session Three

### Partners Who See Others as God Sees Them




#### **C**ONNECT TOGETHER – 10 MINUTES

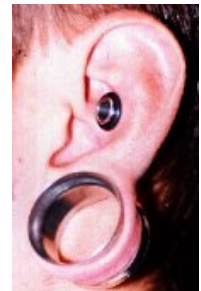
1. Go around the room and invite group members to share any significant event – good or bad – in their lives in the past week.
2. What is the kindest thing someone did for you this past week? How did it make you feel?



#### **G**ROW TOGETHER – 40 MINUTES

Read together this week’s memory verse: **“Love does no harm to its neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfilling of the law” (Romans 13:10).**

 ***Discussion Question #1: You are at a gas station and see a man whose earlobes are pierced with one-inch holes. Quickly jot down your first thought. Don’t think! Just write!***



***When everyone has something written down, share some of your answers.***

Did some of you think, “What in the world would make someone do that?” That piece of jewelry might be announcing to you that the person in line in front of you is of a very different culture than you. The Great Commission (“Preach the Gospel to all creatures”) and the Great Commandment (“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and all your soul and all your might and love your neighbor as yourself.”) are closely related. We can’t share with others the love of Christ that is found in the gospel unless we first love them as individuals like Christ loved them. This presents difficulties because not everyone is like us. Even those who are very similar to us may not be very easy to love.

Read the following article. Do you love the members of your small group?

## LOVING OUR OWN!

Several years ago, Scott Christianson, small groups pastor at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Palatine, IL, joined a small group and immediately clicked with nine of the 10 group members. The tenth, however, challenged Christianson's ability to love his fellow small group members.

"He ruined an otherwise perfect group for me," he admits. Later, Christianson realized he wasn't alone in his sentiments. One night while sitting across the circle from the difficult small group member, Christianson saw that others were clearly frustrated as well.

"As he droned on with one of his typically annoying responses, I noticed that the girl sitting next to him was rolling her eyes and mocking him," recalls Christianson. "That was a Holy Spirit moment for me, because I realized that I had probably done the same thing before." Convicted and rebuked, Christianson began learning the true meaning of authentic fellowship [Christ-like love].

"I learned how to love someone I didn't particularly like," he says. "It wasn't fun, but I think I grew more in Christ-likeness than in any other small group since, and it was all because of this one difficult member."

Indeed, small groups can become the medium through which churches teach the hard lesson of loving one another by encouraging people of various backgrounds and personalities to spend several hours together, week after week. Bill Donahue, author of *Leading Life-Changing Small Groups* recommends challenging your groups to ask themselves, "Are we being the Church to each other? ... You must teach people what it means to be the body of Christ, to love and serve each other."

*Excerpt from the article "Fix My Small Groups" by Keri Wyatt Kent, Outreach Magazine, September/October 2007, page 65*



### Discussion Questions 2 – 4

- 2. What "ruined" the small group experience for Scott Christianson? Have you had a similar experience in a previous small group? (Remember, a small group can be a Bible study group or a church/school/work-related committee or a work-group.)**
  
- 3. How does Galatians 5:16-25 relate to the issue of loving a difficult member of a small group?**
  
- 4. Galatians 5 mentioned the fruit of the Spirit that we need if we are to love those who are not easy to love. How can we be filled with the Spirit that we might be full of the fruit of the Spirit? See Ephesians 5:18-21.**

Jesus commands us to love the brothers and sisters in the faith. Our God also commands us to love those who are culturally different than ourselves. “Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God” (Romans 15:7). Study together the following article.

## Taking Risks

In Jesus’ day, many cultural barriers existed between various groups of people. Jews had no dealings with Gentiles. Most men would not speak with women in public. No one wanted to be seen with a tax collector. And no right-thinking person would speak with, or dare to touch, a person with leprosy. In other words, there was a huge “us-vs.-them” mentality.

Today the work of reaching out to those unlike us is still hard. Let’s be honest. Although every Christian in the world declares that sharing the message of God’s love is the priority, most of us have a hard time keeping this on the front burner. Taking our focus off ourselves and placing it on those outside of God’s family is like rolling a large stone up a steep hill. Few things we do as Jesus’ followers are harder than keeping our hearts revved up for evangelism and putting ourselves in risky situations that will challenge us to share our faith with those unlike us.



### Discussion Questions 5 - 9:

- 5. Anyone who touched an “unclean” person would become unclean (Leviticus 15:2,3,7). Read Leviticus 13:45,46. What was a person with leprosy (NIV translates it “infectious disease”) to do to warn people against becoming unclean through contact with him?**
  
- 6. Read Luke 5:12-13. What risk did Jesus take in his interaction with the unclean leper?**
  
- 7. How do you think Jesus’ touch would have made the leper feel?**
  
- 8. Defend this statement: Jesus has touched us through baptism and the Lord’s Supper.**
  
- 9. What is so remarkable about Jesus’ reaching out and touching you in the sacraments?**

What were some of the risks that Jesus took to reach out to people who were outcasts, lost and wandering like sheep without a shepherd? What were some of the consequences of those risks?

When was the last time you were (or could have been) accused of being a friend of drunkards, tax collectors and sinners, much like Jesus?

It would have been safest for Jesus to minister only to those who were on the cultured and spiritual side of the track. In the same way, it is easier and safer for us to extend our love and compassion to those who are already part of God's family. Consider ways you may be focusing more on those inside your church rather than those outside.

Reflect on Matthew 8:1-4, when Jesus went out on a limb to touch and heal a man with leprosy; John 4:4-42, when he took a tremendous risk by having a theological conversation with a Samaritan woman who had a questionable moral history; and Matthew 9:9-13 when he ate with tax collectors and sinners.

*(The article "Taking Risks" is adapted from Seismic Shifts by Kevin Harney (Zondervan). The adaptation is in Outreach Magazine, September/October 2007, page 42. The Bible study and discussion questions were not part of the article.)*



## **S**ERVE TOGETHER – 10 MINUTES

1. We want to show love to those who come as guests to worship or who are partners with us in the gospel already. Discuss how our congregation can be more open and welcoming to people who are culturally different than we are. Cultural differences could include age, ethnicity, religious vs. non-religious upbringing. Assign one member of your group to report your thoughts to your campaign leader.
  
2. If you haven't already done so, choose a ministry project that your small group can do together. At St. Paul's some ideas would include:
  - a. Serving an Advent or Lent soup supper (call Ron Bartelt 262-679-1657 to reserve a date)
  - b. Serving as hosts for a new member welcome (call Randy Fink at 414-422-0320 ext. 120)
  - c. Serving as greeters on a weekend (call Jodie Crosby at 414-427-0922)
  - d. Adopting a family in need in the congregation to provide Thanksgiving or Christmas food/gifts (call Bob Garbe at 414-422-0320, ext. 123)
  - e. Providing treats for our school staffs (School of Early Learning staff meets once per month on Monday evening – Call Lou Drobka, SOEL secretary at 414-422-0320, ext. 200; Lutheran Elementary School staff meets twice per month on a Monday afternoon – Call School secretary Jody Lunow at 414-422-0320, ext. 110)

Assign one member of your group to be the coordinator for your ministry project.

3. Review your division of duties for your last three meetings.

Date	Host Home	Snack Provider	Facilitator	Coordinators Ministry / Mission



## **S**HARE TOGETHER – 15 MINUTES

1. We want to show love to those who are not part of our community of believers. What are the needs that our community has that we as individual Christians or as a Christian congregation could address? Brainstorm. Assign one member of your group to report your ideas to your campaign leader.
  
2. Your group is encouraged to do a mission project together. Please consider participating in the ***Family Saturday*** at Gethsemane Lutheran. See the note below for more information. Projects include:
  - a. Set up
  - b. Take down
  - c. Food preparation (Coordinator Crystal Bourdo 262-679-1485)
  - d. Food service (Coordinator Crystal Bourdo 262-679-1485)
  - e. Child care
  - f. Aids for teaching art to children
  - g. Teaching a Bible lesson to children
  - h. Publicity (two or more groups going out with Gethsemane members sometime before the Family Saturday)

Please contact Dan Beck at 262-679-2256 or Pastor Panitzke at 414-422-0320 ext. 122 for more information about the program as a whole or to volunteer your group for a mission project.

3. Gather a special offering for ***Family Saturday***. Your group may wish to adopt in whole or in part one of the following opportunities to show Christian love both to our brothers and sisters in Christ at Gethsemane and to the community around their church:
  - a. Radio advertisements (approximate cost \$500)
  - b. Printing of flyers for distribution in the community (\$500)
  - c. Cost of the food that is not donated (\$100)
  - d. Scholarships for participants in the “how to start a business” presentation. The instructor of that session teaches an in-depth, multi-week course that costs \$1000. If participants complete the course and submit a workable business plan, the cost is reduced to \$250. The leadership at Gethsemane would like to provide one or

more scholarships (\$100 to \$250) to the best business plan(s) presented by participants in our *Family Saturday*.

- e. Gifts to offset costs associated with our *Partners in the Gospel* program.

Through November 12<sup>th</sup>, we will have a “Partners in the Gospel” lock box in the narthex and in the church office for small group leaders and others to drop off donations.



## W ORSHIP TOGETHER – 10 MINUTES

1. Ask for prayer requests and make note of them below.

Group member’s name	Prayer Request

2. Allow for a minute of silence so that each participant might list (mentally or on paper) the difficult people each has failed to love as Jesus’ commands. Then let us confess our sins together:

**Group:** Almighty God, merciful Father, you cause your sun to rise on the evil and the good, and you send rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. Forgive us, Father, for not loving as you love. Forgive us for dishonoring your name. We are your sons and daughters, yet we have often failed to reflect this divine lineage. Father, be merciful to us and grant us your forgiveness for Jesus’ sake.

**Leader:** Your Father has been merciful to you and has sent his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for all your sins. By his perfect life and innocent death he atoned for your sins forever. For Jesus’ sake, you are not guilty. You are God’s own dear child. May God strengthen you with the Holy Spirit that you might live a life of love, to the glory of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Group:** Amen.

3. Close with a circle prayer and the Lord’s Prayer.