

Study Notes for Grace and Glory Adult Education Bible Studies 2008-2009

1. Philemon

2. Power Surge

Source Material: based on the book “Power Surge” by Rev. Michael W. Foss, Published by Fortress Press)

Marks of Discipleship – Session 1

(based on the book “Power Surge” by Rev. Michael W. Foss, published by Fortress Press)

“Membership is about getting; discipleship is about giving. Membership is about dues; discipleship is about stewardship. Membership is about belonging to a select group with its privileges and prerogatives; discipleship is about changing and shaping lives by the grace of God.”

Would you describe Grace & Glory as internally or externally focused? Why?

What do you think are the pros and cons of a membership model for a congregation?

How would such a model make you view the rest of the world?

What do you think are the pros and cons of a discipleship model for a congregation?

How would that model make you view the rest of the world?

What barriers would you see in moving from a membership model to a discipleship model for our congregation?

Marks of Discipleship – Session 2

(based on the book “Power Surge” by Rev. Michael W. Foss, published by Fortress Press)

“Leaders are responsible to provide vision, raise up other leaders, and create useful change. Managers, however, maintain the present system and seek to enhance it. Sadly, most church leaders are, in reality, managers.”

What evidence do you see here at Grace & Glory of leadership versus management?

Do you think there is pressure to follow the management model? Is this true of the pastor as well as the leadership team?

What ministry do you expect only from a pastor?

What ministry might we expect instead from our fellow disciples?

What would it take to expand to everyone some of the ministry roles currently performed by the pastor?

Marks of Discipleship – Session 3

(based on the book “Power Surge” by Rev. Michael W. Foss, published by Fortress Press)

“Reconnected to the living Christ, disciples are open to interdependency. Personal inadequacies are not failures so much as opportunities to discover the gifts of others. Community is not simply shared identity. It is the result of shared labor toward common goals. The joy of interdependence is in the experience that the whole truly is greater than the individual parts. When we all work together using our individual gifts for the common good, we are all better than we could possibly be alone.”

What is a gift?

How can we discern our own gifts? How can we help others to discover and utilize their gifts?

How does “passion” fit into the use of gifts? What about “risk-taking”?

What barriers might prevent the optimal use of our gifts? How can we create and maintain a congregational environment in which the use of our gifts is encouraged?

Marks of Discipleship – Session 4

(based on the book “Power Surge” by Rev. Michael W. Foss, published by Fortress Press)

The six marks of discipleship can be remembered with the acronym PoWeR SuRGe:

I will strive to ...

PRAY daily

WORSHIP weekly

READ the Bible

SERVE at and beyond Grace & Glory

Be in RELATIONSHIP to encourage spiritual growth in others

GIVE of my time, talents and resources

What do you remember about prayer when you were growing up?

Does praying come naturally to you?

When are you comfortable praying? When uncomfortable?

What would you like to change about your own prayer life?

What is worship?

Why is it important that we worship on a weekly basis?

What, if anything, would you like to see changed in how we worship here at Grace & Glory?

Marks of Discipleship – Session 5

(based on the book “Power Surge” by Rev. Michael W. Foss, published by Fortress Press)

The six marks of discipleship can be remembered with the acronym PoWeR SuRGe:

I will strive to ...

PRAY daily

WORSHIP weekly

READ the Bible

SERVE at and beyond Grace & Glory

Be in RELATIONSHIP to encourage spiritual growth in others

GIVE of my time, talents and resources

Why do you read the Bible?

How do you approach reading scripture?

What do you do with those portions of scripture that make you feel uncomfortable or with which you disagree?

What would you like to change about your interaction with the Bible?

How would you define service?

How do you decide when to serve and when to draw the line?

How can we prevent burnout in ourselves and others?

How does Colossians 3:23-24 help us think about service?

Marks of Discipleship – Session 6

(based on the book “Power Surge” by Rev. Michael W. Foss, published by Fortress Press)

The six marks of discipleship can be remembered with the acronym PoWeR SuRGe:

I will strive to ...

PRAY daily

WORSHIP weekly

READ the Bible

SERVE at and beyond Grace & Glory

Be in RELATIONSHIP to encourage spiritual growth in others

GIVE of my time, talents and resources

Why is spiritual growth important?

How can we best encourage others in this regard?

What can we do here at Grace & Glory to create an environment in which spiritual growth occurs?

What are the obstacles to giving?

How is giving of time, talents and resources different under a discipleship model rather than under a membership model?

How has God spoken to you in this series on discipleship? What will you take from our discussions?

3. Mark Gospel Study

Source Material:

<http://www.crossmarks.com/MarkStudy/index.htm>

4. The Disciples of Jesus

Session Schedule

March 22: Walking in the Dust of the Rabbi

March 29: Peter: A Hard Hitting Servant

April 5: James: From Raucous Leader to Radical Follower

April 19: John: Arrogance Alleviated

April 26: Judas: All That Glitters Isn't Gold; Matthias: Privacy to Prominence

May 3: Thomas: A Wounded Witness

May 10: Nathanael/Bartholomew: Sincerely Confounded

May 17: Philip: Passionate Pragmatism; Andrew: Less is More

May 24: James, Simon, and Judas: Unnoticed but not Unrewarded

May 31: Matthew: Eternal Entrepreneur

Source Material:

<http://www.oursaviorlouisville.com/bible-study-resources>