

WALKING AS DISCIPLES OF JESUS

**A nine-day journey exploring what it means
to be a disciple of Jesus at WLC**

 **WOODBURY
LUTHERAN**

A gravel path leads through a grassy field with trees in the background. The path is made of light-colored gravel and curves slightly to the right in the distance. The grass is green and yellowish in some areas. There are several trees, including evergreens and deciduous trees, in the background. The sky is clear and blue.

DAY 1: SEEING GOD'S VISION

But I said to them “You know very well what trouble we are in. Jerusalem lies in ruins, and its gates have been destroyed by fire. Let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem and end this disgrace!” Then I told them about how the gracious hand of God had been on me, and about my conversation with the king. They replied at once, “Yes, let’s rebuild the wall!” So they began the good work.

- Nehemiah 2:17-18 NLT -

Multiplying Disciples // Transforming Lives

Our Vision: Multiplying Disciples // Transforming Lives

Nelson Mandela once declared, “Action without vision is only passing time, vision without action is merely daydreaming, but vision with action can change the world.” Nehemiah was a living testament to that. After returning with other Israelites from exile, Nehemiah saw that the wall around Jerusalem was in shambles. The people couldn’t be safe. Thus, Nehemiah defined the problem, offered a solution, and presented a reason why the people should act. At WLC, we see living out our vision, Multiply Disciples // Transforming Lives, as God’s call to do a good work. A disciple is someone who is becoming more like Jesus and is, in turn, called to make more disciples. As disciples keep making disciples, God works by his Spirit to transform lives.

Read Acts 16:11-15

How did Paul and his companions combine vision and action?

What picture do we get of a disciple of Jesus from Lydia?

How can you be a disciple who makes disciples right now?

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DAY 2: WORSHIP TOGETHER

Day 2 - Worship Together

They worshiped together at the temple each day, met in homes for the Lord's Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity—all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved.

- Acts 2:46-47 NLT -



Gathered Worship:

We connect with God through weekend worship services.

Gathered Worship


When we say gathered worship, we're talking about worshipping together as a community of disciples. Primarily, gathered worship happens at weekend services. Whenever we gather, we come to worship as a community, not as 'just another thing we have to do' on a weekend. Instead, we come to worship because it is where God promises to meet us. In worship, God's Word is proclaimed, we confess our sins and hear God's forgiveness, and we are strengthened through the Body and Blood of Christ in the Lord's Supper. As God meets us, he molds and shapes us as his disciples, he encourages us to respond to his gifts, and he inspires us to take what we hear and share that message with those who don't know him.

Read Hebrews 10:19-25

How does knowing you stand in God's presence shape your worship?

How can you be encouraged that God meets you in worship?

How can you follow the words of the author of Hebrews and "not neglect meeting together?"

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DAY 3: MY PRAYER

Day 3 - My Prayer

Let everyone see that you are considerate in all you do. Remember, the Lord is coming soon. Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.

- Philippians 4:4-7 NLT -



WORSHIP

Scattered Worship:

I connect with God
through prayer.

Scattered Worship

The early church father, Ignatius (A.D. 110), echoed the Apostle Paul's words when he wrote, "Pray without ceasing on behalf of everyone." Martin Luther explained, "Prayer is a strong wall and fortress of the church: it is a godly Christian's weapon." Prayer is so important to Jesus that he not only tells us that we should pray, he actually teaches us how to pray. Connecting with God through prayer is an important part of walking the Discipleship Path and becoming more like Jesus. In prayer, we speak with God: praising him for the way he works in our lives, confessing our sins and receiving his forgiveness, and asking for his guidance in our walk as disciples. There is no wrong way to pray. If you struggle to pray, just think of it as a conversation between you and God.

Read Matthew 6:5-13

Jesus defines the prayer of a disciple as different from other prayers. How? As you read the Lord's Prayer, what does God reveal as important? What can you do to get into a regular habit of praying to God?

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DAY 4: ACCOUNTABLE GROWTH

Day 4 - Accountable Growth

I pray that your love will overflow more and more, and that you will keep on growing in knowledge and understanding. For I want you to understand what really matters, so that you may live pure and blameless lives until the day of Christ's return.

- Philippians 1:9-10 NLT -



Gathered Growth:

We grow in faith in Small Groups.

Gathered Growth

Being a disciple of Jesus is more than going to church for an hour on Sunday. In Philippians, Paul reflects a deep desire for followers of Jesus to grow in a knowledge and understanding that can be reflected in daily life. As a church spread out over multiple campuses, Woodbury Lutheran can seem like a pretty big place. It can be hard to get to know everyone, but building relationships with other Christians is important. We grow in faith together in small groups: a place where we can experience community, know others more deeply, engage in the study of Scripture, encourage one another in growth, serve together, and reach together. The primary way we grow as disciples is in small groups. We also offer a variety of classes that provide ongoing growth with a community of believers.

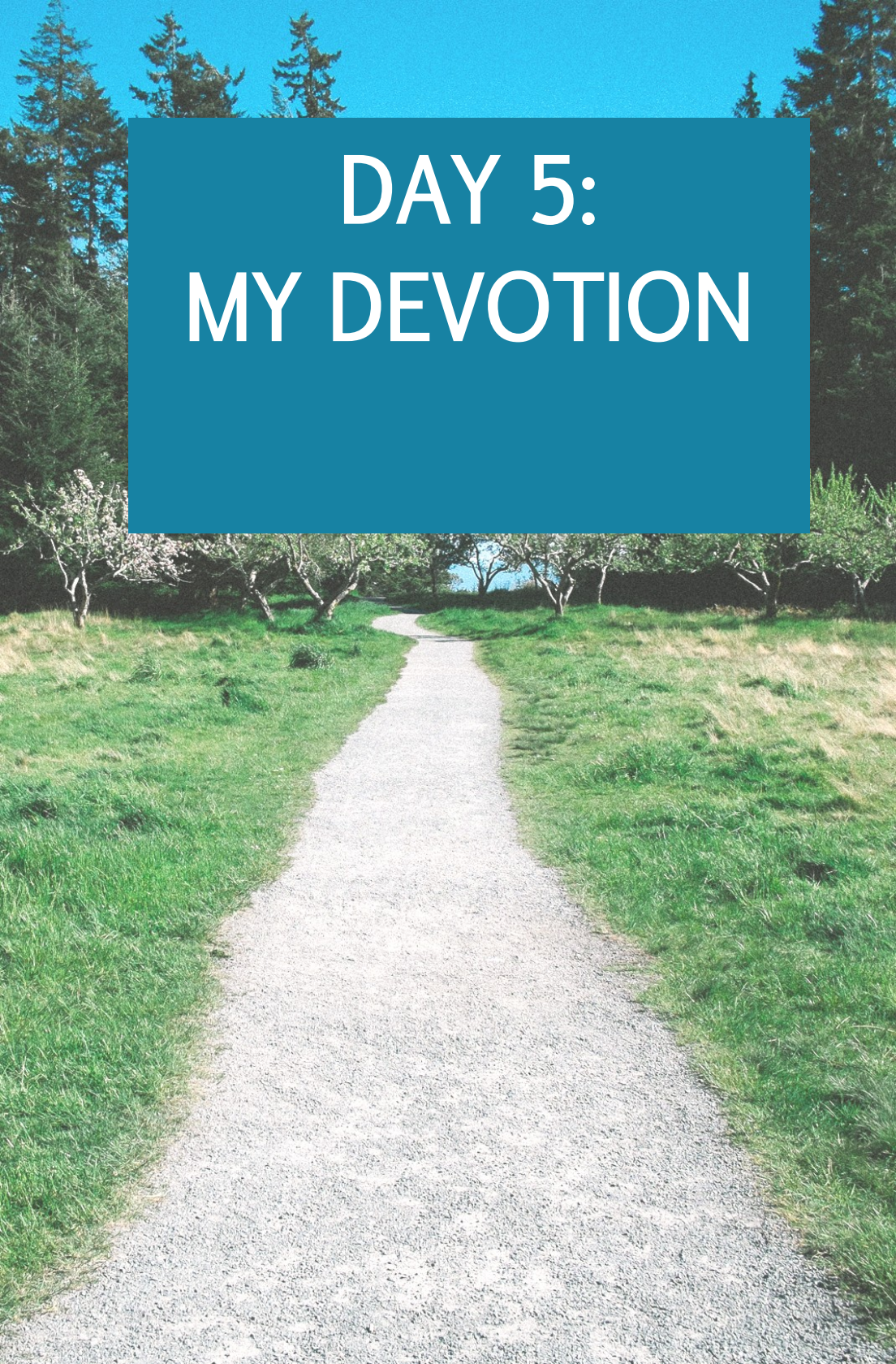
Read Luke 2:41-52

How do Jesus' parents reflect a desire to grow in a gathered sense?

How do the words of the boy, Jesus, spur us toward growth today?

How might you commit to growing in wisdom as a member of WLC?

DAY 5: MY DEVOTION



Day 5 - My Devotion

Be careful to obey all the instructions Moses gave you. Do not deviate from them, turning either to the right or to the left. Then you will be successful in everything you do. Study this book of instruction continually. Meditate on it day and night so you will be sure to obey everything written in it.

- Joshua 1:7-8 NLT -



Scattered Growth:

I grow in faith through personal devotional Bible reading and study.

Scattered Growth

Martin Luther was devoted to the teaching and study of God's Word. During his life, Luther set a strong example of scattered growth. He was led into a pattern of scattered growth through his time in a monastery as a monk, and oftentimes he would constantly encourage Christians to be in the study of God's Word. Joshua gives a similar encouragement to Israel: "be careful to obey all the instructions Moses gave you [literally God's Word]." These words are a great reminder to disciples of Jesus of the importance of spending time in regular reflection on God's Word: reading (out loud or to yourself), marking (highlighting important phrases/writing questions in the margin), and inwardly digesting (pondering it throughout the day) God's precious truth.

Read 2 Timothy 4:1-5

What does it look like to be prepared as a disciple of Jesus?

How does God's Word sometimes conflict with our desires?

How might you grow in such a way that you keep a clear mind?

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DAY 6: USING OUR GIFTS

Day 6 - Using Our Gifts

For you have been called to live in freedom, my brothers and sisters. But don't use your freedom to satisfy your sinful nature. Instead, use your freedom to serve one another in love. For the whole law can be summed up in this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself."

- Galatians 5:13-14 NLT -



Gathered Serve:

We serve in the church
using God-given gifts.

Gathered Serve

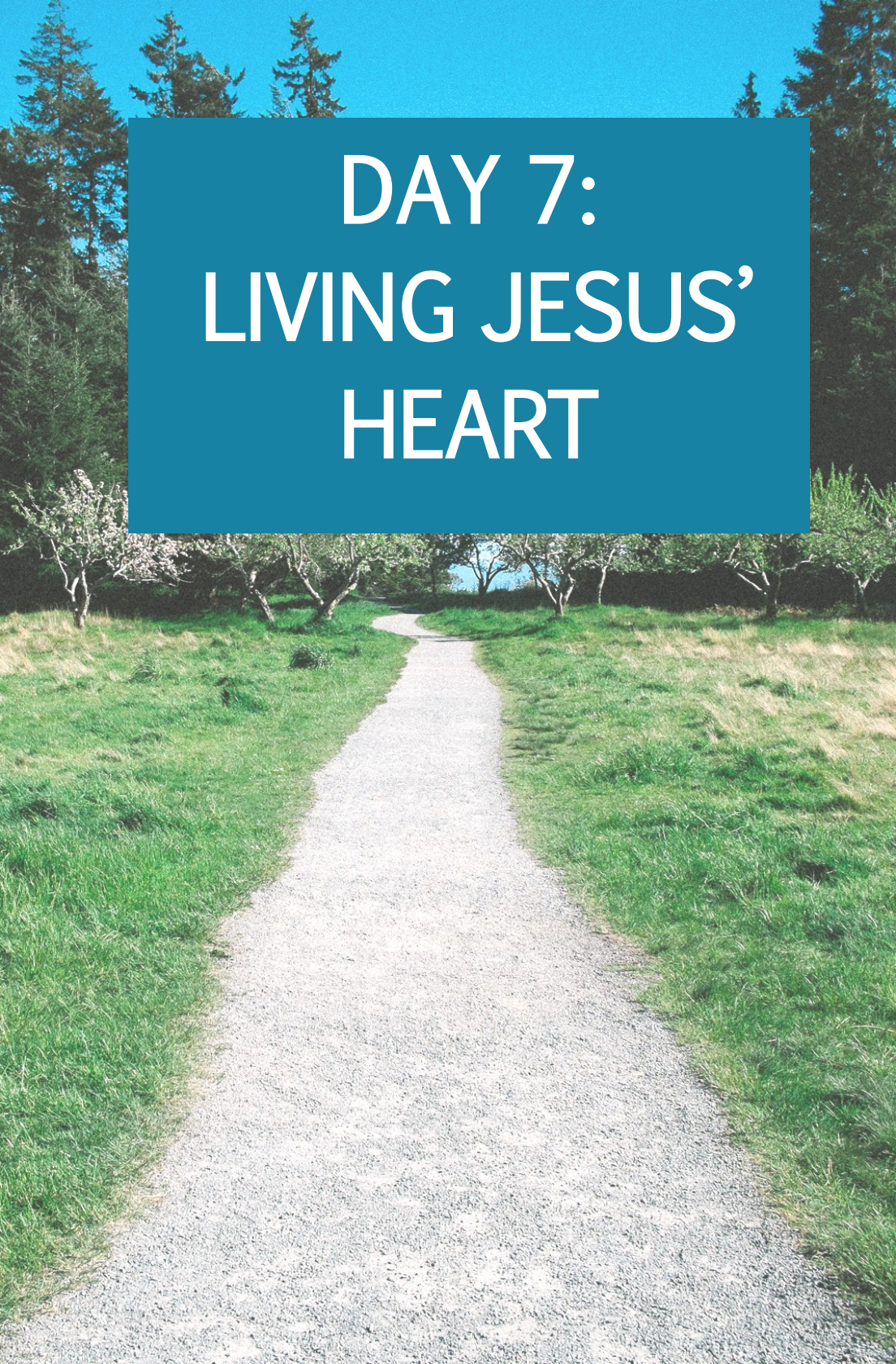
There are a lot of different ways to view serving. Our culture talks about serving as doing something nice every once in a while. Our world paints pictures of 'paying a good deed forward' or doing 'random acts of kindness.' Paul goes deeper than that. Serving is a way of life. It's a way that we show Christ's love and communicate that love to our neighbor. One important way we can serve is within the context of the body of Christ. As we practice gathered serve at WLC, our service impacts those who interact with the congregation. Holding a door for someone and welcoming them or helping run the sound board during worship may seem like minor tasks. However, their impact is major. Our service can have a strong influence in the way someone receives the message of the Gospel.

Read Luke 7:36-50

How are the woman's actions a type of service?

How did Simon's heart keep him from a life of service?

What drives this woman to a life of service? What drives your service?

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DAY 7: LIVING JESUS' HEART

Day 7 - Living Jesus' Heart

“But among you it will be different. Whoever wants to be a leader among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first among you must be the slave of everyone else. For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

- Mark 10:43-45 NLT -



Scattered Serve:

I serve with the attitude of Jesus in day-to-day life.

Scattered Serve

Jesus clearly stated where his heart was: “The Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others.” These powerful words of Jesus should shape how we live as his disciples in our daily lives. Oftentimes, we see the world as if we are merely consumers. It’s how we’re trained to live by so many different things. Jesus’ disciples were in a similar situation. They wanted things for themselves like positions of power. But Jesus’ words called his disciples to reconsider how they approached the world. They speak to us too. What if we approached every day as servants instead of consumers? According to Jesus, a serving lifestyle reflects his very heart. It also reflects the reason why he came to earth: to give his life as a saving ransom for sinners.

Read Romans 12:1-8

Serving in our everyday lives is affected by our view of self. How?
How is living a life of service a holy sacrifice to God?
How has God gifted you? How might you use those gifts in service?

DAY 8: AN INVITATION



Day 8 - An Invitation

Many Samaritans from the village believed in Jesus because the woman had said, “He told me everything I ever did!”... Then they said to the woman, “Now we believe, not just because of what you told us, but because we have heard him ourselves. Now we know that he is indeed the Savior of the world.”

-John 4:39,42 NLT -



Gathered Reach:

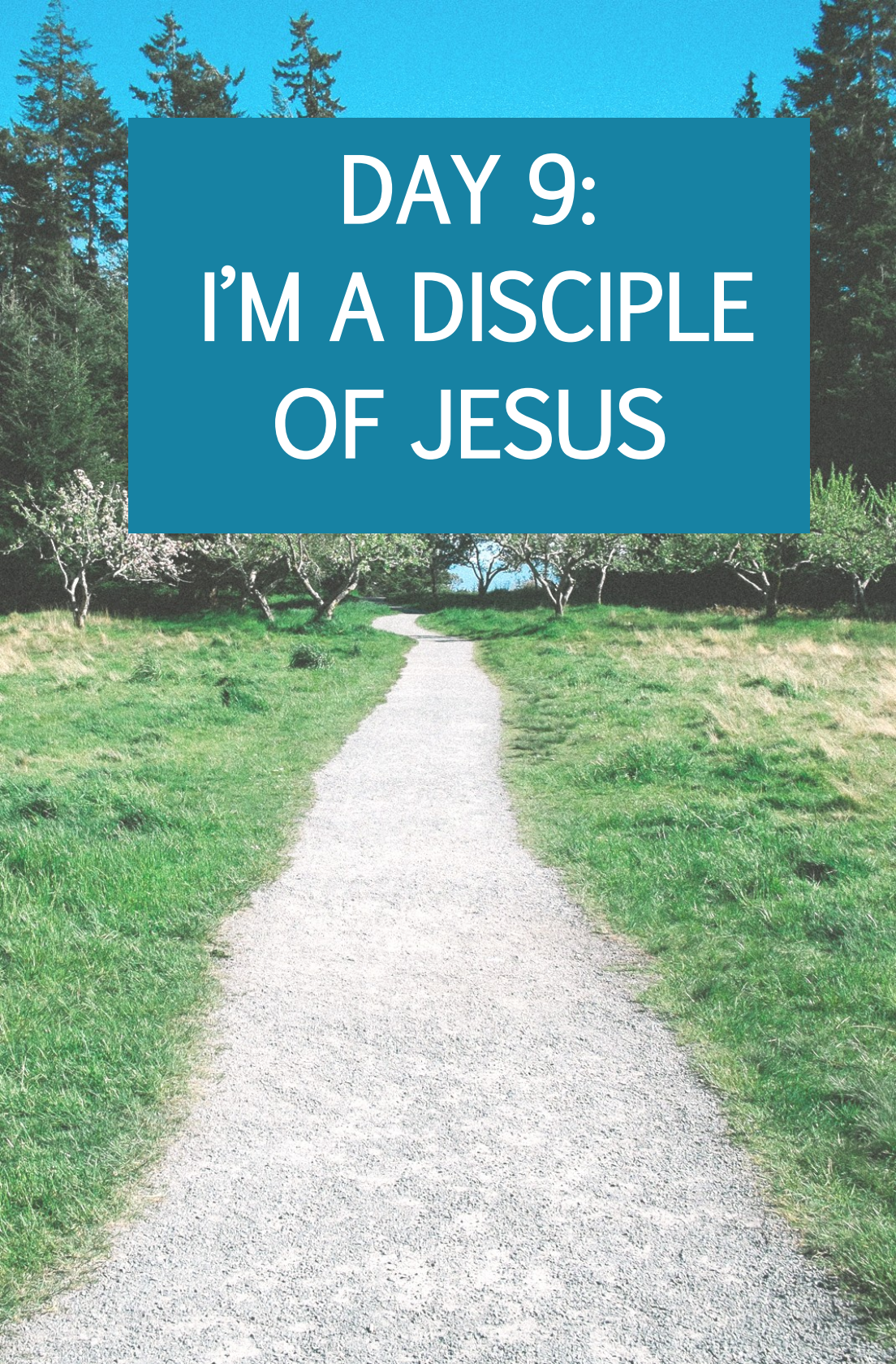
We invite unchurched people to weekend worship services.

Gathered Reach

A simple phrase changed the life of a whole community: “He told me everything I ever did!” But the Samaritan woman’s words weren’t just a statement of fact. They were also an invitation to “come and see.” The people responded to the woman’s invitation and ran to meet the Son of God. It’s amazing what God can do through a simple invitation. Many times, we think of reaching as something complicated or scary. But as we page through Scripture, again and again we find disciples of Jesus simply inviting others to “come and see.” Reaching isn’t an optional part of being a disciple. But why would we want it to be? We have the greatest story in the world, and we bring a message of salvation for the rest of the world. We all have a reason to invite those around us to “come and see.”

Read Acts 8:26-40

Reach doesn’t always start with us. Who starts Philip’s reach encounter? What is significant about the fact that Philip met the man where he was? Which people has God placed in your life? Who is ready for an invitation? Name(s): _____

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**DAY 9:
I'M A DISCIPLE
OF JESUS**

Day 9 - I'm a Disciple of Jesus

Jesus came and told his disciples, "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

- Matthew 28:18-20 NLT -



Scattered Reach:

I engage others in spiritual conversations in day-to-day life.

Scattered Reach

Disciples are followers of Jesus sent by God to make more disciples. They may invite others to "come and see," but God also looks at his disciples and says, "Go!" That command might make us think of traveling to foreign countries like missionaries do. But sometimes, God calls us to see where we are already going: to work, to visit our neighbors, to a local sports game, etc. Wherever we go, we'll find people who aren't connected to Jesus. For that reason, disciples should always be ready to talk about Jesus. This may seem like a daunting task, but you can prepare by looking at how God has worked in your life. Reflect on the following questions: How did God bring you to faith? Why do you follow Jesus today? How has Jesus changed your life? Being prepared with answers to these questions can help you engage and reach.

Read John 8:1-11

How does Jesus handle this daunting situation?

How does God's grace have the last word in John 8?

How does Jesus engage those around him and move them closer to him?

Who is God calling you to reach? Name: _____

WLC

DISCIPLESHIP  **PATH**



WORSHIP



GROW



SERVE



REACH

