

# Sermon Discussion Guide- Week of Nov 11, 2018



Special Guest Dr. Paul Wright – All Services

## Getting Started- Life Updates, Prayer Requests & Opening Question (15-20 min)

- Anything to share about the past week? About follow-ups from last Sunday's message, "Eternity in Their Hearts?"
- Are there any joys or concerns that you would like to share with the group for the closing prayer time or for group members to hold in prayer during the week? (please note them below for later)

- Opener: What kind of things make for a good community life together?

## Review the Sermon (15 min)

Please read aloud the sermon scripture below, Psalm 122 and Mark 3:13-19. Know that it is ok to skip some questions below in order to manage the time for discussions in each section.

**I rejoiced with those who said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD." <sup>2</sup> Our feet are standing in your gates, Jerusalem. <sup>3</sup> Jerusalem is built like a city that is closely compacted together. <sup>4</sup> That is where the tribes go up— the tribes of the LORD— to praise the name of the LORD according to the statute given to Israel. <sup>5</sup> There stand the thrones for judgment, the thrones of the house of David. <sup>6</sup> Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: "May those who love you be secure. <sup>7</sup> May there be peace within your walls and security within your citadels." <sup>8</sup> For the sake of my family and friends, I will say, "Peace be within you." <sup>9</sup> For the sake of the house of the LORD our God, I will seek your prosperity.**

**<sup>13</sup> Jesus went up on a mountainside and called to him those he wanted, and they came to him. <sup>14</sup> He appointed twelve that they might be with him and that he might send them out to preach <sup>15</sup> and to have authority to drive out demons. <sup>16</sup> These are the twelve he appointed: Simon (to whom he gave the name Peter), <sup>17</sup> James son of Zebedee and his brother John (to them he gave the name Boanerges, which means "sons of thunder"), <sup>18</sup> Andrew, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James son of Alphaeus, Thaddaeus, Simon the Zealot <sup>19</sup> and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.**

- If you had to give a one-minute summary of the sermon message this week, what would you say?

- In studying the Bible and Jerusalem, there are three focal points, the three “P’s” that are helpful to think through- **P**eople (God’s), **P**lace (the Promised Land) and **P**resence (God’s). The Psalm 122 text on the left, is a Psalm of Ascents, often recited or sung on the way to worship in Jerusalem. How is the convergence of the 3 P’s- the people of God, in the place of God, in the presence of God (Dr. Sandra Richter), communicated as an ideal in verse 1?
- How is what is good for the community described here in verses 4-7?
- For whose benefit is the good being sought (see verses 8-9)?
- How does Veteran’s day remind us of the virtue of serving a community? How does this challenge the ways of our culture today?
- What do we know about the 12 disciples named in verses 16-18 of the Mark passage which indicates that this was a diverse group of common people?
- What kind of community life might they have had together?
- At this point, they were not yet “Apostles” or sent out ones. How do you feel about writing your name in there among the names of the disciples called by Jesus?
- What would you say is the job description of a disciple?

### **Another Related Scripture (10 min)**

- Would a volunteer please read Mark 1:16-20. What stands out to you in these “calling” stories?
- Why would Jesus choose these four and what was He requiring of them?
- What was it about Jesus that would prompt the four to leave their livelihood of fishing behind and follow Him?
- What might they have seen as potential gains from the experience being offered to them?

### **Personalizing and Applying The Message (15 min)**

- As you reflect upon the sermon and the additional scripture above, what are points of encouragement or challenge for you personally?
- How is the life of a faithful disciple in today’s world similar or different from the disciples of Jesus’ time?
- The concept of “shalom” is more than the just peace or the absence of conflict and is also present in the theme verse of Christ Church, Jeremiah 29:7, “seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper.” How can we be “agents of shalom” who pursue “life as it should be” for a community?

### **Witness & Closing Prayer (5-10 min)**

- How is it that the world’s largest religion, Christianity with 2.4 billion believers (about 1/3 of the world population of 7 billion), developed from the faith and response of 12 common people who accepted Jesus invitation to follow Him?
- How is the faith still being transmitted to others and new generations today by Christians like us?
- The group leader or another volunteer who took notes on the prayer requests shared earlier in the meeting, may now lead the group in closing prayer.