

**Worship Engagement and Devotion for week of August 15, 2021**

**READ Luke 4:16-20, Luke 6:17-26, Matthew 5:1-12**

**Reclaiming Good News Series Week 6: Good News – To Whom?**



What is good news? How do we know when something is good news? Can old news still be good news? In our new series, Reclaiming Good News, we will search the pages of Scripture together to gain insight and understanding about the meaning of a phrase we use a lot! Let's explore good news in a fresh way!

### Questions for Reflection:

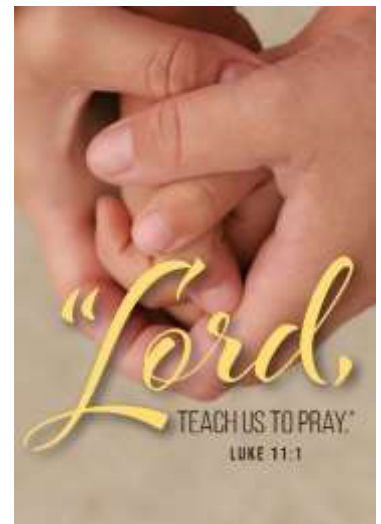
- What does it mean that Jesus accepts a call to proclaim Good News to the poor? What does this mean for you today?
- Why does God call God's people to care for the most vulnerable and provide a way for those who have lost their way?
- Why do you think Jesus taught about blessings and woes?
- Reread Luke 4:18-20 . What good news is Jesus called to bring to the poor and oppressed? What does this mean for you today?
- To whom is God calling you to bring Good News to this week?

### Spiritual Practice: Praying Scripture

John Wesley described prayer as the breath of our spiritual life. Author Adele Calhoun writes that, *"Praying Scripture is a way of entering deeply into the text with a heart alert to a unique and personal word from God. Words and verses that catch our attention become invitations to be with God in prayer."* The practice of Praying Scripture invites us to allow God to shape our prayer life through the words of scripture. Praying Scripture opens the heart to praying particular prayers, psalms, teachings and hopes found in the Bible.

Praying Scripture includes any of the following:

- Meditating on Scripture, interacting with God around the revelations discovered in scripture
- Listening to God and lingering at the spaces for reflection in the biblical stories
- Listening for questions that Jesus poses to the disciples as if they were questions Jesus is asking you
- Personalizing scripture by substituting your name; try Psalm 139:13-14
- Allowing a Biblical story to give voice and action to your needs, desires and feelings
- Entering into prayer through the touch, confrontation, healing, invitations and challenges of scripture
- Slowing down scripture reading to a pace that makes room for listening
- Use the Lord's Prayer as a framework for your prayer
- Sing God's Word
- Pray the Psalms – here we find prayers that voice our needs, fears, joys, sorrows, anger, loneliness, dryness, and joy. The Psalms invite us to be authentic and honest and come to God as we are.
- Explore prayers by people found in the Bible. The prayers of Jesus, Paul, Daniel, Mary, Moses, and Hannah can provide a framework for our prayers.



*Adapted from Spiritual Disciplines Handbook by Adele Ahlberg Calhoun*