

Surprise the World!

Week Five: Learn Jesus

Read Chapter 6 from *Surprise the World* by Michael Frost

Get Connected: *Jesus loves me this I know, for the Bible tells me so!* What is your favorite Bible story about Jesus?

Bible Study:

You are invited to engage with scripture each week using an ancient practice called *lectio divina*. Read the scripture once. Allow a minute of silence following, and then each person answers the first question. Read the scripture aloud the second time, followed with a minute of silence, and then each person answers the second question. Read the scripture a third time, hold a minute of silence, and then answer the third question. It is most helpful when everyone has the scripture in front of them so they can underline phrases and make notes regarding the question. The other important practice to this form of engaging with the scripture is holy listening. Each person listens deeply to the other's response without interruption or dialogue. At the end of the three rounds, if the group would like to enter into dialogue and conversation with the scripture that is the appropriate time. A person can certainly pass answering a question at any time. Listen for what the Spirit seeks to share with you in this living encounter with the Word.

Matthew 11:28-30

"Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you'll recover your life. I'll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won't lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you'll learn to live freely and lightly."

What is the word or phrase that captures your imagination?

What has you tired or worn out these days?

What is God inviting you to do, change, or be through this passage?

Video: Show week five with Rev. Fred Vanderwerf on learn

Discuss:

- 1) Any blessing or eating stories or Spirit promptings to share this week?
- 2) What do you see as the difference between reading/studying the Bible and "learning Christ?"
- 3) What do you find surprising, questionable and intriguing about Jesus, based on what you've already learned about him?

- 4) What does it mean for us to pattern our lives on the Incarnation of Jesus? John 1 says that the “Word (Jesus) pitched a tent and dwelt in the neighborhood.” How are you planting roots and dwelling with people in your community?
- 5) How excited are you about Jesus? If someone asked you to share your “why you follow Jesus story” what would you share?

Action Step: Choose a gospel, and make a commitment to read through it this week. Read it in a way where you might meet Jesus again as if for the first time. Note what catches you by surprise and where you are intrigued to learn more. As you are going about your daily life, practice incarnation by asking what Jesus want me do/be/think here and now, in this moment and situation.

Continue to ask God to help you see who can bless and eat with this week, and spend time listening for the promptings of the Holy Spirit.

Share Your Stories: Post your “why Jesus” story on social media with **#surprisetheworld**. Continue to post photos of where you are encountering, blessing, or eating with people.

Conclude: Join hands and go around the circle, with each person saying what they thank God for and what they ask God for, and then all join in the Lord’s Prayer.

If you are using the Michael Frost videos that can be found at <http://www.crossover.org.au/surprise-the-world/>, begin the session with Minnesota Annual Conference video, follow with the Get Connected Question, and then use the Michael Frost video after the Bible study.