

Lectionary Bible Study

For Sunday, July 18, 2021 (Pentecost 8)

Jeremiah 23:1-6

Discussion Starters

1. Who are the shepherds, and how do they scatter the flock? What will God do to these shepherds?
2. Who will the new shepherds be? How will they be different from the original shepherds?
3. What will be the impact of the new shepherds on the flock?
4. Jesus identified Himself as the "Good Shepherd." How might this passage have shaped the understanding of His first hearers?
5. Whenever God had a special interaction with the people of Israel, they identified Him by a different name. What new name is introduced here? What is the significance of that name? What name might you give you God based on your interaction with Him?

Ephesians 2:11-22

Discussion Starters

1. In what way were the first readers of this letter "excluded from citizenship?" What was significance of their lack of citizenship? Who was "in" and who was "out?"
2. What is meant by "the dividing wall of hostility?" Where was it located? How did Jesus destroy it?
3. What do you learn about the structure God is building?
4. What is the "peace" attributed to Jesus in this passage?
5. What issues today "exclude" people?

Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

Discussion Starters

1. What would the disciples have reported to Jesus upon their return? (Hint: read the previous verses.)
2. Why did Jesus take the disciples away? What could the disciples expect to happen during their time away?
3. What about the crowd caused Jesus to have compassion? What was His solution? Why did the come to Jesus?
4. What events happen in the verses not read here (vv. 35-52)? What insights do those events give you regarding verses 53-56?

WRAP UP

What key insight did you gain from this Bible study? How might it make a difference in how you live today?