

Lectionary Bible Study

For Sunday, July 20, 2025 (Pentecost 6)

Genesis 18:1-14

Discussion Starters

1. Who are the three visitors? Why do they come to visit Abraham?
2. What does this passage teach you about keeping hope when your dreams appear to fail?
3. Middle Eastern custom requires generous hospitality. How does Abraham honor that custom?
4. Why does Sarah laugh? How would you describe her laughter? Why does her laughter result in a rebuke?

Colossians 1:15-28

Discussion Starters

1. Describe the "before" (v. 21) and "after" (v. 22) pictures created here.
2. What is meant by the conditional statement offered in v. 23? What does it mean to "move from the hope held out in the gospel?"
3. How is Paul able to rejoice in the midst of his suffering? In what way(s) is his suffering a continuation of the suffering of Jesus?
4. What is the mystery about which Paul writes?
5. What does Paul mean when he talks about the "word of God in all its fullness" (v. 25)?

Luke 10:38-42

Discussion Starters

1. Who are you most like: Mary or Martha?
2. Is Jesus scolding Martha for doing her work? If not, what point is He making?
3. Why is Mary's choice better than Martha's choice?
4. What are ways that "work" interferes with spending time with God? How has this been true in your life? What accountability measures can we put into place to keep it from happening again?
5. The NIV uses the word "distracted" to describe Martha (v. 40). What words or phrases are used in other translations? What does distracted mean, and how would it be a fitting description for Martha in this passage?

WRAP UP

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