

Lectionary Bible Study

For Sunday, September 7, 2025 (Pentecost 13)

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

Discussion Starters

1. When (in the 40 years of desert wanderings) did this passage of Scripture happen? At the beginning? Near the end? What events happen following this, and how does this passage influence those events?
2. What choice(s) does God set before the people of Israel? How will Israel demonstrate the choice they make?
3. What promises does God make to those who choose Him? What does He promise for those who do not choose Him? Do you think these promises hold true for today?
4. Given the consequences outlined here, why would anyone choose death rather than life? (Keep in mind that the children of Israel often made poor choices!)
5. What examples of "choosing death" are seen in our world today? How does one "choose life?"

Philemon 1-21

Discussion Starters

1. Who are Philemon and Onesimus? Why does Paul care about them?
2. What qualities of Philemon does Paul praise? What qualities of Onesimus does he also praise?
3. What request does Paul make from Philemon?
4. Does the fact that Onesimus has become a Christian in any way change your reaction to what he did?
5. At what point are you willing to forgive someone who has done a wrong against you? Right away? Only after they change their behavior?
6. Do you think Philemon will go along with Paul's request? Why or why not?

Luke 14:25-35

Discussion Starters

1. What does Jesus mean by the word "hate?" How does that relate to our attitudes toward our family?
2. How does a person carry a cross?
3. What does this passage teach you about the Kingdom of God?
4. How can we be "salt" to someone else? How does this picture of salt relate to the concept of discipleship?
5. Why does Jesus demand so much in order to be His disciple? Shouldn't it be simpler?

WRAP UP

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