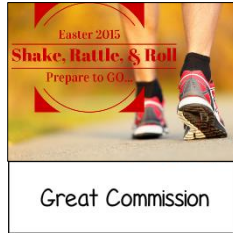


God's Story Your Story

April 12, 2015

Faith 5 – A pattern for shaping a life of faith



Share:

What was a high point of your day?

Read: Reflect on the key verses from Sunday's reading.

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you.

And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Matthew 28:19-20

Talk:

- What was a high point of your day? What was a low point?
- Who are the people within your community that are viewed as less-than? How can you work to welcome them into God's kingdom?
- If God changed your name as a sign that you have been set apart to serve God, what name would you want God to choose? Why?

Pray:

God of the Word, you commissioned the disciples to go, baptize, and teach. Teach us to speak and lead so that all may come to know you, for the glory of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

Bless:

God of grace, thank you for loving us even when we doubt. Expand our faith as your word is shared today. Amen.

Some Background

Jesus spent much of the book of Matthew teaching the disciples to look at the world in a new way; to see the lowly as worthy, and to challenge the authority of those who had let power corrupt them. After his death and resurrection, it became time for the disciples to continue the work Jesus came here to do. Yet they did not work apart from his presence. They were not challenged to succeed in converting people. They were commissioned to go, baptize, and teach others to look at the world in a new way; the work of transformation still remains with Jesus.

Follow the stories of early believers and missionaries.

Sunday, Matthew 28:16-20, *Great Commission*

Monday, Psalm 40:9-10, *Psalm*

Tuesday, Acts 7:54-8:1, *Stoning of Stephen*

Wednesday, Acts 8:4-25, *Philip Preaches in Samaria*

Thursday, Acts 8:26-40, *Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch*

Friday, Acts 9:1-19, *The Conversion of Saul*

Saturday, Acts 9:36-43, *Peter in Lydda and Joppa*