

## **August 6**

### John 10:1-18

In this passage, Jesus calls himself the good shepherd.

#### *Question to Consider:*

Jesus calls himself the good shepherd and says that, “the good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.” What does it mean *to you* that Jesus laid down his life for you?

#### *Prayer:*

Forgiving God, I thank you for the gift of forgiveness that I have in Jesus. I thank you that Jesus offered himself as a sacrifice for my sin. My I never take that gift for granted. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

## **August 7**

### Mark 10:13-16

In this passage, Jesus blesses some little children and teaches about faith.

#### *Question to Consider:*

What do you suppose Jesus meant when he said, “anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it?”

#### *Prayer:*

Father God, help me to have the faith of a child. Remove the cynicism and skepticism from me and help me to be fully open to you. I pray in the name of Jesus, Amen.

## **August 8**

### Matthew 19:16-22

In this passage, Jesus teaches a hard lesson to a young man who was very rich.

#### *Question to Consider:*

The young man was obedient to the commandments, but he allowed his material wealth to keep him from fully following Jesus. Jesus knew that and told him to sell all that he had. If Jesus were to speak to you, what would he tell you to get rid of so that you could fully follow him?

#### *Prayer:*

Gracious God, I acknowledge that *(name the thing[s] preventing you from fully following Jesus)* keeps me from completely giving my life to Jesus. Forgive me and help me to let it go so that my life can be fully devoted to Christ. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

## **August 9**

### Matthew 19:23-30

In these verses, Jesus uses the encounter with the rich young man to teach his disciples.

#### *Question to Consider:*

Jesus says that even when we let go of things we treasure, we will enjoy great rewards when we choose to follow him. What kind of reward (or rewards) do *you* expect?

#### *Prayer:*

Almighty God, the cost of following Jesus may be high, but the rewards are so much greater. I thank you for the gift of your Holy Spirit, the promise of spiritually abundant life, and the promise of eternity in your presence. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

## **August 10**

### Matthew 20:1-16

In these verses, Jesus tells a parable about workers in a vineyard.

#### *Question to Consider:*

Many people have trouble with this story because it seems so unfair, but Jesus is teaching about the gift of forgiveness and salvation. Do you think it is fair that those who come to Jesus late in life will spend eternity with God, just the same as those who have spent their lives serving Christ?

#### *Prayer:*

Father God, your ways are not my ways and your grace and mercy are so much greater than mine. Help me to celebrate with you *whenever* people give their lives to Jesus – regardless of their age. I pray in the name of Jesus, Amen.