

## **May 16**

### Mark 1:35-39

These verses tell of Jesus trying to be by himself for a few moments of prayer.

#### *Question to Consider:*

Have you ever felt overwhelmed and just needed a few moments to take a break? When? Are you able to get some rest at those times?

#### *Prayer:*

Loving God, I know that even Jesus needed some time away from the crowds to pray and rest and be with you. Help me to take the time I need, to rest and pray and stay close to you. I pray in Jesus' name, Amen.

## **May 17**

### Mark 1:40-45

These verses tell of Jesus healing a man with leprosy, and of his fame spreading quickly.

#### *Question to Consider:*

Why do you suppose Jesus told the man he had just healed not to tell anyone?

#### *Prayer:*

Merciful God, I know that you want me to share the good news of Jesus. I pray for your guidance so that I will share it in ways that are beneficial and that please you. I pray in the name of Christ, Amen.

## **May 18**

### Luke 5:17-26

In this passage, we read about a demonstration of faith and about one of the earliest confrontations Jesus had with the religious leaders.

#### *Question to Consider:*

In this early confrontation with the religious leaders, Jesus challenged their understanding of God and how God works in the world. Has there been a time in your life when a basic understanding of yours has been challenged? Did you consider the other idea, or resist it from the start?

#### *Prayer:*

Father God, I know the time will come when something I believe may be challenged. Help me to be open to the ideas of others. Sometimes they will be in error, but sometimes they will be right and I will learn something, or discover a change I need to make. I pray in the name of the Jesus, Amen.

## **May 19**

### Matthew 9:9-13

This passage tells of Matthew the tax collector becoming a disciple, and of Jesus associating with the “wrong” people.

#### *Question to Consider:*

The religious leaders in Jesus’ day believed that “tax collectors and sinners” were the wrong people for people of faith to associate with. Think of our culture today. As a Christian, do you ever feel pressured, even a little bit, to avoid certain groups of people? Which ones? Do you avoid them?

#### *Prayer:*

Loving Father, Jesus reached out to those no one else would reach out to, and he loved those who others refused to love. Help me to be more like Jesus, to love and care like he did. I pray in Jesus’ name, Amen.

## **May 20**

### Luke 5:33-39

In these verses, Jesus is again questioned by the religious leaders and in response, he speaks of the difficulty of putting something new into something old.

#### *Question to Consider:*

Wineskins in Jesus’ day were usually goatskins, sewn together to make watertight bags. Because new wine expands as it ages, it was necessary to put new wine into new skins. The skin can only stretch so far and an old wineskin would not be able to withstand the expansion of new wine. Instead, the old wineskin would burst. Jesus was challenging the religious leaders, saying that they were too inflexible to see the new thing that God was doing through him. Is there something in your church or in the way you practice your faith that has become so inflexible that there would not be room for something fresh from God?

#### *Prayer:*

Gracious God, help me to always be open to your Holy Spirit, even if it means trying something new or unfamiliar. I pray that I am always willing to grow, and to have my faith expanded by you. I pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.