



The Episcopal Diocese of Albany
Disciples Making Disciples

**MARKS OF
DISCIPLESHIP**

VIDEO SERIES STUDY GUIDE

Diocese of Albany Vision

The Diocese of Albany is One Church fulfilling the Great Commandment and Great Commission, moving from membership to discipleship; equipping, emboldening, and sending disciples to make disciples.

Marks of Discipleship and Diocesan Values

Prayer and Worship

- Worshipping the Lord daily (Psalm 95:1-7, Psalm 96:1-9, Acts 2:46, Romans 12:1)
- Gathering weekly as the Body of Christ in remembrance and thanksgiving (Acts 2:42, I Corinthians 11:23-26)
- Praying continuously & interceding for all in need (Romans 12:12, I Thessalonians 5:16-18, I Timothy 2:1)
- Praying with and in the Spirit (I Corinthians 14:1-25)

Scripture – The Word of God

- Studying the Holy Scriptures daily; ordering our lives to God's Word; and proclaiming the Good News through Biblical Preaching (Luke 4:16-21, Acts 2:42 & 17:11, Romans 12:2, II Tim. 3:14-17, II Timothy 4:1-2)
- Acknowledging that the Old and New Testament is the very Word of God, "containing all things necessary to salvation and as being the rule and ultimate standard of life" (BCP 853 and 877)

Catholic Structures of Anglicanism

- Committing to The Body of Christ, The Universal Church, across space and time (Matthew 16:18, Romans 12:5, I Corinthians 12:27-28, Ephesians 4:4-16)
- Honoring the three-fold ministry of Bishop, Priest and Deacon (Acts 2:21-26, Ephesians 2:19-22, I Timothy 3 & 4, II Timothy 2:2, BCP 510, BCP 517-519, BCP 531-532, BCP 543-544)

Christian Education

- Teaching young and old alike in Sunday School & Bible Study to know God and follow Jesus (Psalm 27:11, Matthew 28:20, Mark 1:21-22, Mark 10:13-16, Luke 24:27 & 45, John 14:26, Acts 17:11, Titus 2:1)
- Teaching the Catechism & preparing for Confirmation (BCP 845-862)

Christian Fellowship

- Committing to being in the Body of Christ - the Church, and using our Spiritual Gifts for its benefit (Acts 2:42-47, I Corinthians 1:9, I Corinthians 12, Ephesians 4, Colossians 3:1-17).
- Loving One Another as commanded by Christ (John 15:12, Romans 12:10, I John 1:3-7)

Spiritual Gifts & Healing

- Learning to identify and use the Spiritual Gifts God has given each person for the work He has prepared for them to accomplish in His name (Romans 12, I Corinthians 12, I Peter 4:10)
- Following Jesus' command to His disciples to heal the sick (Matthew 4:23, Luke 9:1-2 & 10:9, James 5:14-15)

Christian Service

- Serving the Lord faithfully (Deuteronomy 10:12, Joshua 24:14, Romans 12:11, Philippians 2:3-8, Colossians 3:17)
- Serving others in a broken world (Matt. 25:31-40, Luke 10:30-37, John 13:1-17, Galatians 5:13, I Peter 4:10)

Generosity in answering God's call as Stewards of His Creation

- Embracing the Biblical standard of tithing and working to achieve it (Malachi 3:10, II Corinthians 9:6-8)
- Contributing to the needs of the saints (Matthew 6:2-4, Acts 20:35, Romans 12:13, II Corinthians 8)
- Growing in stewardship of all God has given us (Genesis 1, Luke 21:1-4, I Peter 4:9-10)

Evangelism – Sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ

- Introducing people to Jesus (Matthew 28:18-20, John 17:18-26)
- Encouraging the next generation to pass forward the faith (Deuteronomy 6:6-9, Psalm 78:1-8, 2 Timothy 2:2)

Mission at Home and Abroad

- Restoring all people to unity with God and each other in Christ (BCP 855, John 14:6, I Timothy 2:3-6)
- Witnessing to the truth of Jesus Christ, going into the world and making disciples of all nations (Matthew 28:18-20, Mark 16:15-16, Luke 24:46-48, Acts 1:8)

WELCOME

Welcome to the Episcopal Diocese of Albany's *Marks of Discipleship DVD Video Series!*

This series has been designed to help you and your parish grow in faith and deepen your understanding of discipleship by exploring the 12 Marks of Discipleship that are included in our Diocesan Vision Statement. The series begins with a video message from Bishop Love, and then is divided into 12 individual videos, each featuring a Bishop, Priest, Deacon, or layperson from (or connected to) the Diocese speaking on one of the Marks of Discipleship. Additionally, this booklet has been produced to assist you as a companion study guide for the videos. We hope you will find this video series helpful and pray that God will bless you through it.

Note to Study Leaders. In order to gain the maximum benefit from this study, it is best undertaken as a group. Group discussion is a key ingredient. The study could be used during your adult education hour on Sunday or as an additional parish Bible study. Here's how it works. Begin each session with a brief opening prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to come and guide the group. Then watch one of the videos. Most of the videos are between 12-15 minutes long, with one exception (Scripture) which runs a bit longer. As you watch, be sure to urge everyone to take notes and pay attention to the questions in the corresponding booklet section. After the video ends, ask the group if they have any initial thoughts or questions that the video may have sparked. Then you can use the structure of the booklet to help guide your discussion.

Each section of the booklet is divided into four subsections. "Explore", "Read", "Apply" and "Dig Deeper". The "Explore" section contains questions to help generate group discussion, while each "Read" section contains a brief Bible study on a passage or passages of Scripture that are relevant to that day's topic. The "Apply" section is designed to help group members apply that day's concepts to their personal lives. Finally, the "Dig Deeper" section offers ways for individuals, if they so desire, to further explore and apply each Mark of Discipleship.

Acknowledgements. The Diocese would like to warmly thank Bishop Love for his clear vision for growing disciples in this Diocese and for his enthusiastic support of this project; all of the presenters who appear in the DVD's; Dean David Collum for his coordination of this series; Fr. Bruce and Shay Mason who assisted Dean Collum in the production of this series; Kevin Kallsen of Anglican TV who filmed and edited the videos; and The Cathedral of All Saints, The Spiritual Life Center, and Christ Church, Gilbertsville who provided the locations for filming.

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PRAYER

Explore

1. Bishop Herzog states that prayer is rooted in relationship. What does he mean by this? What is the role of prayer in our relationship with God?
2. Prayer is our primary way of communicating with God. What types of prayer are there? What types are you drawn to?
3. How did Jesus pray? Can you think of any examples in the Gospels of Jesus praying?

Read

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

1. What does Scripture tell us always to be and do?
2. How is it we can be joyful in all situations?
3. What does it mean to pray continually?

Apply

Our ability to be more joyful and thankful and to pray continually is related to the depth of our relationship with God. Do you have a daily prayer discipline? What might you add to your daily discipline to strengthen your relationship with God?

Dig Deeper

Try praying the Psalms. Read them as if they were *your* prayer to God. If a particular verse stands out to you, take time to meditate on it further and then pray back to God what you are thinking, feeling, and experiencing.

There are *many* wonderful books on prayer. Here are a just a few suggestions:

- *Prayer for Beginners* -- by Peter Kreeft
- *Prayer: Finding the Heart's True Home* -- by Richard Foster
- *The Simple Power of Prayer* -- by Joyce Meyer
- *With Christ in the School of Prayer* -- by Andrew Murray
- *Praying God's Word* -- by Beth Moore

WORSHIP

Explore

1. What comes to your mind when you hear the word 'worship'?
2. Why do most people attend worship services?
3. For you personally, what draws you most into worshipping God?

Read

Romans 12:1-2

1. Why is worship a response to God's mercy?
2. God's mercy is shown in the fact that while I was a sinner, Christ showed his love for me by dying on the cross. Worship is my response. According to this passage, what does this worship look like?
3. God's Word tells us that our spiritual act of worship is to offer our lives to him by not conforming to the ways of the world. What are the ways that the world tries to conform us? Are there things that appear to be good in this world that may actually lead us away from God's perfect will?

Apply

Read *The Message* paraphrase of Romans 12:1-2:

So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him. Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what he wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you.

Ask yourself: How does my own life compare with Paul's instructions? Do I see my life as an act of worship? What parts of my life might I more fully offer to God?

Dig Deeper

When you attend your next worship service, pay particular attention to the things you say and do during the service. Ask yourself: Why are these things important? What do they mean? What am I supposed to be learning from them? How are the principles behind them supposed to be applied to my daily life?

SCRIPTURE

Explore

1. How do you understand the phrase “The Word of God”?
2. In Scripture, Jesus is called The Word (John 1:1). Why do Christians also call Holy Scripture the Word of God? What is the purpose of Holy Scripture in relation to Jesus?
3. Rev. LeMarquand tells us that Scripture is “our primary reference point when it comes to understanding God in Jesus.” It also tells us a wider story. What is your understanding of that story?

Read

2 Timothy 3:16-17

1. The Apostle Paul describes Scripture as “God-breathed.” What do you think this description means?
2. Our Catechism explains that the Holy Scriptures were written by human authors under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit (BCP 853). What does this suggest about the authority of Scripture? How does Paul say that Scripture is to be used by the Church?
3. Throughout its history, the Church has viewed the Scriptures as having authority over all manner of life and as a useful tool for strengthening the Body of Christ. Are there any wrong ways to use Scripture?

Apply

How often do you read the Bible? If you don’t read it very often, what might the reasons be? The Bible tells us that all Scripture is God-breathed and useful. What steps will you take to incorporate the Scriptures more fully into your daily life?

Dig Deeper

Consider taking the *Essential 100 (E100) Bible Reading Challenge*. E100 is a systematic approach to reading Scripture that guides you through 50 passages from the Old Testament and 50 passages from the New Testament. These passages have been selected to help you understand the full story of the Bible. For more information call the Diocesan Office or visit the E100 website at www.e100challenge.com.

CATHOLIC STRUCTURES OF ANGLICANISM

Explore

1. In the Nicene Creed we affirm that “We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.” What do you think the word “catholic” means in this context?
2. The “catholic” church is made up of all Christians, both present and past. What are some ways that Anglicans are connected with other Christians? How are Anglicans connected with the early church?
3. What does Fr. Brown mean when he refers to “apostolic succession”? Can you think of ways in which apostolic succession might relate to discipleship?

Read

2 Timothy 1:6-14

1. What does Paul mean by the “laying on of hands”(NIV)? What did Timothy receive through the laying on of hands?
2. According to verse 7, what does the Holy Spirit give to believers? Why are these things important for disciples of Jesus?
3. What does Paul instruct Timothy to do? Is there any relationship between what Paul tells Timothy to do and what Paul himself has been doing? What does this tell you about how discipleship is supposed to work?

Apply

Think back to a bishop, priest, or deacon that was especially important in helping you grow spiritually. What kind of things did that person do to help you grow? How can you support your *current* bishop, priest or deacon as they disciple members of your church?

Dig Deeper

Read through the ordination services (Bishop, Priest, and Deacon) found on pages 512-547 in *The Book of Common Prayer*. What role does the laying on of hands play in each service? How do you understand what happens at the laying on of hands? In what ways do the services seek to link the ordinand with the universal (catholic) church, both present and past? What is the unique work that bishops, priests and deacons are given by God?

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Explore

1. Rev. Garramone-Rohr states that Christian Education is distinct from other types of education in that it is first and foremost about relationship. How is this so? Have you ever thought of Christian Education in this way?
2. How does Christian education not just educate the mind but feed the heart and inspire the spirit?

Read

Deuteronomy 6:4-9

1. The Diocese of Albany places great emphasis on the Great Commandment, which Jesus gets from this passage. According to this passage, where is this commandment to be located in our body?
2. If God's commandments are to reside in our hearts, what does the passage suggest about the role that God's commandments are supposed to play in our lives?
3. In addition to obeying them, what are we supposed to do with God's commandments?

Apply

God's intention is not just for us to know about Him, but rather for us to know Him personally. Are you currently making an effort to get to know God better? In how many of your church's Bible studies and other educational opportunities have you participated? Are you taking time each day to read and study the Bible?

Dig Deeper

- Read and study The Catechism, found on page 843 of the 1979 Book of Common Prayer.
- Purchase and use a Study Bible, such as the ESV or NIV Study Bibles, for your daily devotions.
- Buy a Commentary on your favorite book of the Bible to help you understand it better. Commentaries from the IVP's "The Bible Speaks Today" series and Tom Wright's "The New Testament for Everyone" series are easy to read and understand. Ask your priest if you need help with choosing a commentary that is right for you.

CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Explore

1. There are many benevolent fellowship organizations (Rotary, Lions Club, etc.) that do good works of charity and service. What is different and unique about Christian Fellowship?
2. Deacon Lynne suggested that Christian Fellowship involves sharing in a common spirit? What is this spirit?

Read

1 Corinthians 1:9; Acts 2:42-47

1. Where does Christian Fellowship begin? On what relationship is it modelled?
2. Christian Fellowship is a response to our fellowship with Jesus. What did the Christian fellowship of the Apostles look like?
3. The Scriptures reveal that the early church was devoted to God's Word, sacraments and each other. How can each of these strengthen and enliven *our* fellowship? How is fellowship a sign of devotion to God?

Apply

Involving ourselves as the church in Christian Fellowship is an important way that we love others and share our faith. Such fellowship is a witness to others of God working through us to advance and accomplish His purposes. How is God calling you to serve him and others through Christian Fellowship?

Dig Deeper

Read 1 Corinthians. Paul writes this letter to address, in part, problems that have led to a breakdown of Christian Fellowship in the Corinthian Church. What are these problems? What are the consequences? What does Paul exhort the Corinthians to do about this fellowship breakdown?

SPIRITUAL GIFTS

NOTE: This session's questions relate to the Spiritual Gifts Checklist on pages 19-20.

Explore

Every Christian is given at least one spiritual gift. In your group, try to answer the following questions based on your answers to the Spiritual Gifts Checklist:

1. Which gifts did you mark as occurring "often" in your ministry?
2. Share how you have used these gifts in a ministry.
3. How could you use your gifts to minister to people in ways you are not doing now?
4. Looking at the people in your group, do you think any of them have a gift which they did not identify as having? You could help them by telling them what gifts you think they have.
5. As a group, go through the list of gifts. Can you identify at least one person in your church for each one of the gifts?
6. Look at the gifts you marked as "never" occurring in your ministry. Pick one of them out and describe how you might find out whether you have been equipped with that gift.

Read

I Corinthians 12:4-7, I Corinthians 14:1, Romans 12:3-8, Ephesians 4:7-16

Apply

- St. Paul says you should "eagerly desire the spiritual gifts" (I Corinthians 14:1). As you look at the gifts, are there any you would like to have that you don't have at this time?
- Finish by praying that God would fill you more and more with the Holy Spirit and equip you with more gifts for ministry. There are different ways you can do this. If a priest or deacon is in your group he or she could anoint everyone and pray that they be filled with the Holy Spirit and given gifts for ministry.

Dig Deeper

- *Discover Your Spiritual Gifts* -- by C. Peter Wagner, Ph.D.
- *Your Spiritual Gifts Can Help Your Church Grow* -- by C. Peter Wagner Ph.D.
- *Your Spiritual Gifts Can Help Your Church Grow Small Group Study Guide* -- by C. Peter Wagner Ph.D.
- *Spiritual Gifts: Their Purpose & Power* -- by Bryan Carraway

SPIRITUAL GIFTS CHECKLIST

Directions: Mark whether the statement after each gift is true in your life often, sometimes, or never.

	Often	Some- Times	Never
Gifts which reveal God's will			
1. PROPHECY (Romans 12:6, Eph 4:11, I Cor 12:10, 28) I speak supernatural messages of encouragement or guidance from God.	_____	_____	_____
2. TESTING OF SPIRITUAL THINGS (I Cor 12:10) I know whether the things people say and do are from God or not.	_____	_____	_____
3. TEACHING (Romans 12:7, Eph 4:11, I Cor 12:28) People like to listen to me teach from the Bible, either at church or informally.	_____	_____	_____
4. WISDOM (I Corinthians 12:8) I supernaturally know what God wants done in certain situations.	_____	_____	_____
5. FAITH (I Cor 12:9) I have confidence that the prayers God gives me to pray will be answered.	_____	_____	_____
6. TONGUES (I Cor 12:10, 28) God gives me messages to speak in languages I don't know.	_____	_____	_____
7. INTERPRETATION OF TONGUES (I Cor 12:10) I know the English meaning of messages in unknown languages.	_____	_____	_____
Gifts which help and support Christians and non-Christians			
8. SERVING (Romans 12:7) I organize people to help people who have practical needs.	_____	_____	_____
9. HELPING (I Cor 12:28) I like to personally help people who have practical needs.	_____	_____	_____
10. EXHORTATION (Romans 12:8) God gives me words of encouragement or comfort for people who need them.	_____	_____	_____
11. ACTS OF MERCY (Romans 12:8) I cheerfully do things for the sick and hurting.	_____	_____	_____
12. CONTRIBUTING (Romans 12:8) I cheerfully give the money and things I have to others.	_____	_____	_____

(continued on next page)

	Often	Some- times	Never
13. PASTOR (Ephesians 4:11) I love other Christians and I like taking care of them and talking to them about Jesus.	_____	_____	_____
14. WORKING OF MIRACLES (I Cor 12:10, 28) I have prayers answered in ways that defy natural laws.	_____	_____	_____
15. HEALING (I Cor 12:9, 28) My prayers are quickly answered when I pray for sick people to be well.	_____	_____	_____
16. KNOWLEDGE (I Corinthians 12:8) God gives me supernatural knowledge about what is going on in peoples' lives.	_____	_____	_____
17. HOSPITALITY (I Peter 4:9) I provide an open house and warm welcome to those in need of food or lodging.	_____	_____	_____

Gifts which provide God's leadership for his people

18. ADMINISTRATION (I Corinthians 12:28) Christians follow my direction as I tell them God's vision for his church.	_____	_____	_____
19. APOSTLESHIP (Ephesians 4:11, I Cor 12:28) Many churches look to me for leadership and direction.	_____	_____	_____
20. RULING (Romans 12:8) I lead other Christians by loving, serving, and teaching them.	_____	_____	_____

Gifts which allow the message about Jesus to be spread to new people and places

21. EVANGELISM (Ephesians 4:11) I enjoy talking to non-Christians about Jesus and they frequently become disciples of his.	_____	_____	_____
22. CELIBACY (I Cor 7:7) I am single and enjoy being that way so I have more time to serve God.	_____	_____	_____
23. MARTYRDOM (I Cor 13:3) I display a joyous and victorious attitude when I suffer for Christ.	_____	_____	_____
24. VOLUNTARY POVERTY (I Cor 13:3) I renounce material comfort and luxury so I may be free to serve God better.	_____	_____	_____
25. MISSIONARY (Eph 3:7, I Cor 9:22) I am able to minister in a culture different from my own.	_____	_____	_____

HEALING

Explore

1. Throughout the Gospels, Jesus is seen preaching the Good News and healing the sick. How are these two activities related to one another? (hint: see Luke 10:9)
2. Jesus' actions show us that healing is meant to go hand in hand with proclaiming the Gospel. However, Fr. Mumford suggests, the Church has too often done a poor job of healing the sick. Why might this be?
3. Fr. Mumford quotes his mentor Francis MacNutt who has said, "People are dying because people aren't praying for them." What might keep someone from praying for the sick?

Read

Luke 9:1-6; Luke 10:1-9

1. Where does Jesus send the 12 and the 72? Whose authority are they given?
2. Jesus sent out the 12 and 72, empowered by the Holy Spirit, to every town and place that he, himself, was to go. What were they to do when they arrived?
3. Jesus encouraged his disciples to stay in the communities and be with the people as they prayed for the sick and taught about the kingdom of God. How does healing the sick help make disciples and grow the kingdom of God?

Apply

Fr. Nigel tells us that everyone can and should pray for healing. The way we do this is to simply "listen, love, and pray." Have you ever prayed for someone to be healed? Do you believe that if you pray for healing that God will answer your prayers?

Dig Deeper

If you would like to learn more about how to pray for others, or receive prayer for yourself, visit the Diocesan Healing Center website for more information:
<http://www.christ-the-king-center.org/Healing/>

There are many good books on Healing. Here are some suggestions:

- *Healing* -- by Francis MacNutt
- *The Forgotten Touch: More Stories of Healing* -- by Rev. Nigel Mumford
- *Post Trauma Healing, After the Trauma, the Battle Begins* -- by Rev. Nigel Mumford
- *Your Healing is Within You* -- by Canon Jim Glennon
- *Christ the Healer* -- by F.F. Bosworth

CHRISTIAN SERVICE

Explore

1. When you hear the words “Christian Service”, what comes to your mind?
2. Christian service is a way of serving God through serving others. What do you see as the ultimate goal of Christian Service? How does Christian Service differ from social service?
3. Through serving others, Jesus desires that we bring people into a living relationship with Himself as their Lord and Savior. How does this goal of Christian Service compare with your understanding and your church’s understanding?

Read

John 13:1-17

1. Why did Jesus wash his disciples’ feet?
2. After giving them an example to follow, Jesus then commands his disciples to do the same. What did Jesus mean when he said that “no servant is greater than his master”?
3. Given what Jesus said and did in this passage, does your church have any excuse not to engage in Christian Service?

Apply

As a group, ask yourselves: What are the greatest needs in your community? What are the particular gifts that God has given your church? Then pray together and ask God to show you how your church’s unique gifts might be best used to help meet those needs. When God shows you, think about what steps need to be taken to prepare yourself and your church for this service. Is your church ready to express its faith through Christian Service? (James 2:14-18)

Dig Deeper

Read Ephesians 2:8-9 and James 2:14-18 and consider the following questions:

- What is the relationship between ‘faith’ and ‘works’?
- Can faith and works exist independently of one another?
- Consider the life and ministry of Jesus. How did his faith and his works relate?
- How are faith and works important for Christians as they engage in Christian Service?

STEWARDSHIP

Explore

1. It is natural to desire an abundant life. Is there a difference between the world's understanding of abundance and the Christian understanding?
2. What is the tithe? Do you agree that Christians should be tithing? Why do you think that God asks us to tithe? Who owns the financial resources we have?
3. How is faith related to stewardship?
4. "No one who is financially bound can be spiritually free." What do you think this statement means?

Read

2 Corinthians 9:6-12

1. God is concerned about the attitude of our hearts. In verses 6 and 7, how much are we called to give, and what is our attitude towards giving supposed to be?
2. What does God promise for us if we are generous and cheerful givers?
3. If God will provide for all of our needs, then what does this say about God? What are we saying to God when don't practice Christian Stewardship? What are we saying when we do?

Apply

God's promise of grace and abundance to the obedient and cheerful giver awaits us. What steps do you need to take in your own life to become a better steward?

Dig Deeper

The following are some helpful resources on Christian Stewardship:

- *Debt Proof your Marriage* -- by Mary Hunt
- *Financial Peace* -- by Dave Ramsey
- *Giving & Tithing, and Debt-Free Living* -- by Larry Burkett
- *Crown Financial: Family Budgeting and or Debt and Credit* – www.crown.org

EVANGELISM

Explore

1. "Christianity is one generation from extinction." Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Why?
2. When you hear the word 'evangelism', how does it make you feel? According to Fr. Roy, what are some of the reasons that many Christians don't evangelize?
3. Whether it be fear of rejection, a feeling of inadequacy, or a misunderstanding of how to evangelize, many Christians choose to keep their faith to themselves. Is Christian faith a private matter? What does the Bible say?

Read

John 20:19-22; (Acts 1:7-8)

1. What was the disciples' reaction when they saw the risen Jesus? Why did they react this way? What does this reaction say about their relationship with him?
2. After the disciples receive him with great joy, Jesus sends them out to evangelize (also see Mt. 28). What does this suggest about the proper motives for evangelism? According to Fr. Roy, what are some wrong motives? Also, who does Jesus give his disciples to help them in their work?
3. The depth of our commitment to evangelism is dependant on the strength of our personal relationship with Jesus. How committed to evangelism are you?

Apply

When and how did you first become a Christian? What does being a Christian mean to you? Take time now to write a paragraph (or more) about your experience. This week, take a step of faith and share with another person who is not a Christian about why you follow Jesus. It can be a family member, a friend, or a stranger. Pray before you share and then allow God to use you.

Dig Deeper

Take the The Alpha Course (a course in the basics of the Christian faith) and/or help launch a course in your church. Invite members of your community to come! See <http://www.albanyepiscopaldiocese.org/ministries/alpha.html> for more information.

Some suggested reading:

- *The Gospel in a Pluralist Society* -- by Leslie Newbiggin
- *Out of the Saltshaker & into the World: Evangelism as a Way of Life* -- by Rebecca Manley Pippert

MISSION

Explore

1. When you hear the word “mission”, what do you think about? Who is called to mission?
2. Rev. Canon Montgomery stated that mission is a “non-negotiable”. In the Great Commission (Mt. 28:19-20), Jesus calls all Christians to mission. Where is the mission field?
3. There is opportunity for mission anywhere that Christians live, work and can travel in the world. Have you ever considered yourself to be a missionary? Why or why not?

Read

Luke 4:16-21

1. Given Jesus’ decision to read from the scroll of Isaiah, what was Jesus’ understanding of His own mission? What was his role to be?
2. Jesus saw his mission on earth as a fulfilment of Old Testament prophecy as recorded in Isaiah (and elsewhere in the OT). When you look at Jesus’ life and ministry, in what practical ways did he fulfill this prophecy? To whom did he go? What kind of things did he do?
3. Jesus ministered primarily to the outcasts and the needy (physically and spiritually). Who are the outcasts in your community who need to be reached with the love of Christ?

Apply

How will you respond to the Great Commission? Rev. Canon Montgomery explains that in mission there are “sending people and sent people.” Which might God be calling you to be?

Dig Deeper

If you don’t already have one, talk to your clergy about starting a Missions Committee in your church. If you need help forming a committee, contact the Diocesan Missions Board by visiting <http://www.albanyepiscopaldiocese.org/ministries/missions/>. At this site you can also learn more about what short-term missions the Diocese currently offers. Participating in a short-term mission is a wonderful way to bless others with the love of Christ and also to grow in your own faith. If you are unable to go on a short-term mission yourself, then consider financially supporting a mission trip or a missionary family.



The Episcopal Diocese of Albany
Disciples Making Disciples