

Membership Covenant

The 5 G's
Groups
Giving
Gifts
Grace
Growth

A Guide for Spiritual Formation

Text for the Week: Luke 12:35-48

Message for the Week: Great Gift; Great Responsibility

Sunday, December 17

Opening:

What is one low (a bad thing) and one high (a good thing) that happened to you this past week? Write them down and take turns sharing them with the others in your group.

Where have you seen the work of the Holy Spirit in your life this past week?

When have you ever had to wait with eager anticipation for something that was very important to you? How did you prepare yourself for the moment? How did you react when your wait was over?

Preparation:

Spend 1-2 minutes in silence with God to center and prepare yourself for your time with God today.

Read:

Read / Have two people in your group read [Luke 12:35-48](#) out loud.

[Clicking the link will bring you to multiple translations.]

As you read and/or listen to the text being read, circle, take note of, highlight, or underline what words, phrases, or ideas grabbed your attention and heart in these verses?

Write them down below and/or share them with those who are with you.

Respond / Reflect:

What does it mean to live “ready?”

What do you make of a master who comes back ready to serve and wait on his servants? What is the life that Jesus models for us in verse 37?

What has the master entrusted to you? What are you doing with it? What could you do with it?

What is Jesus talking about when he talks about the master beating the servants?

Compare the punishment of the one who knows the will of the master and the one who doesn't know the will of the master. What do you notice?

Do a heart and soul check – deep within yourself. Are you doing now, or will you do, what is necessary to be obedient to God's will and use what He has given to you to bless others?

Try It:

Continue engaging with the “Random Acts of Kindness” Advent Calendar that the youth group created.

Prayer:

Spend time in prayer with/for the other people who are with you. Pray this prayer together:

Father, in the midst of Advent, forgive us for taking your gifts for ourselves. Teach us again that your gifts are to be a blessing for our families, schools, churches and communities. Help us to be faithful servants of all that you have given us. AMEN

Missional/Spiritual Practice: Giving

I commit to giving generously of my time for the building of Christ's Church and Kingdom.

I commit to giving generously of my talents for the building of Christ's Church and Kingdom.

I commit to giving generously of my treasures (financial resources) for the building of Christ's Church and Kingdom.

I commit to giving generously of my testimony for the building of Christ's Church and Kingdom.

How are you giving generously in these areas? If not, why not? What needs to change?

Luke 12:35-48

New International Version

12 ³⁵ "Be dressed ready for service and keep your lamps burning, ³⁶ like servants waiting for their master to return from a wedding banquet, so that when he comes and knocks they can immediately open the door for him. ³⁷ It will be good for those servants whose master finds them watching when he comes. Truly I tell you, he will dress himself to serve, will have them recline at the table and will come and wait on them. ³⁸ It will be good for those servants whose master finds them ready, even if he comes in the middle of the night or toward daybreak. ³⁹ But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁰ You also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him."

⁴¹ Peter asked, "Lord, are you telling this parable to us, or to everyone?"

⁴² The Lord answered, "Who then is the faithful and wise manager, whom the master puts in charge of his servants to give them their food allowance at the proper time? ⁴³ It will be good for that servant whom the master finds doing so when he returns. ⁴⁴ Truly I tell you, he will put him in charge of all his possessions. ⁴⁵ But suppose the servant says to himself, 'My master is taking a long time in coming,' and he then begins to beat the other servants, both men and women, and to eat and drink and get drunk. ⁴⁶ The master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he is not aware of. He will cut him to pieces and assign him a place with the unbelievers.

⁴⁷ "The servant who knows the master's will and does not get ready or does not do what the master wants will be beaten with many blows. ⁴⁸ But the one who does not know and does things deserving punishment will be beaten with few blows. From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked.

The Message

12 ³⁵⁻³⁸ "Keep your shirts on; keep the lights on! Be like house servants waiting for their master to come back from his honeymoon, awake and ready to open the door when he arrives and knocks. Lucky the servants whom the master finds on watch! He'll put on an apron, sit them at the table, and serve them a meal, sharing his wedding feast with them. It doesn't matter what time of the night he arrives; they're awake—and so blessed!

³⁹⁻⁴⁰ "You know that if the house owner had known what night the burglar was coming, he wouldn't have stayed out late and left the place unlocked. So don't you be lazy and careless. Just when you don't expect him, the Son of Man will show up."

⁴¹ Peter said, "Master, are you telling this story just for us? Or is it for everybody?"

⁴²⁻⁴⁶ The Master said, "Let me ask you: Who is the dependable manager, full of common sense, that the master puts in charge of his staff to feed them well and on time? He is a blessed man if when the master shows up he's doing his job. But if he says to himself, 'The master is certainly taking his time,' begins beating up on the servants and maids, throws parties for his friends, and gets drunk, the master will walk in when he least expects it, give him the thrashing of his life, and put him back in the kitchen peeling potatoes.

⁴⁷⁻⁴⁸ "The servant who knows what his master wants and ignores it, or insolently does whatever he pleases, will be thoroughly thrashed. But if he does a poor job through ignorance, he'll get off with a slap on the hand. Great gifts mean great responsibilities; greater gifts, greater responsibilities!