

BE THE *light* FOR ALL TO SEE

A STUDY COMPANION FOR SMALL GROUPS
AND PERSONAL REFLECTION

WEEK 1: BE THE LIGHT FOR ALL TO SEE

2 Corinthians 4:5–10 • 1 Chronicles 29:10–14

Read both passages slowly. Notice a word, phrase, or image that draws your attention.

Biblical and Theological Reflection

Paul reminds the Corinthians that the church does not proclaim itself; we proclaim Jesus Christ. God is the source of the light that shines through us, yet Paul says we carry this treasure in “clay pots,” ordinary, imperfect people entrusted with something extraordinary. The treasure is not ours, and the power comes from God.

David’s prayer in 1 Chronicles offers a similar vision. Everything belongs to God, and even what we offer has first come from God’s hand. Our time, abilities, resources, relationships, and opportunities are gifts entrusted to our care. Stewardship begins here: **God is the giver. We are the stewards.** When we faithfully offer what God has entrusted to us, God’s light becomes visible through our lives.

Discuss or Reflect

1. What stands out to you about Paul’s image of carrying “treasure in clay pots”?
2. Why do you think Paul begins by insisting, “We don’t preach about ourselves”?
3. What changes when we understand what we have as something entrusted to us rather than something that simply belongs to us?
4. What has God entrusted to you (your time, abilities, resources, relationships, influence, or opportunities)?
5. How can our limitations or imperfections sometimes become places where God’s power is more clearly visible?
6. What has God entrusted to Trinity that we can use to share Christ’s light with others?

What Has Been Entrusted to Me?

Stewardship begins by recognizing what we have received. Consider each area below and name one gift God has entrusted to you. Then reflect: How might God be inviting me to use one of these gifts so that someone else experiences God’s goodness?

TIME _____
ABILITIES _____
RESOURCES _____
RELATIONSHIPS _____
OPPORTUNITIES _____

Closing Prayer

God of light, everything we have comes from you. You have placed your treasure in ordinary lives and entrusted us with gifts to share. Keep us humble, grateful, and generous. Use what we have and who we are so that the light of Christ may be seen through us. Amen.

WEEK 2: THERE'S A PLACE FOR YOU

1 Corinthians 12:12–27 • 1 Peter 4:10–11

Read both passages slowly. Notice a word, phrase, or image that draws your attention.

Biblical and Theological Reflection

Paul writes to a divided congregation that has confused spiritual gifts with status. His image of the church as Christ's body offers a deeper vision of belonging. Through baptism, the Spirit joins different people into one body. Christian unity is not sameness; our differences become gifts that strengthen the church's shared mission.

Every member matters because no one possesses everything the church needs. Paul even calls the parts considered weaker "the most necessary," reminding us that visibility and recognition are not measures of spiritual value. Belonging also creates mutual responsibility: when one member suffers, the whole body suffers; when one rejoices, the whole body celebrates.

1 Peter calls believers "good managers of God's diverse gifts." Our abilities, experiences, energy, resources, and availability belong to God and are entrusted to us for the service of others. Stewardship is not only giving money; it is offering our whole lives for the building up of Christ's body.

Discuss or Reflect

1. When have you experienced a genuine sense of belonging in a church or community?
2. Why are we sometimes tempted to compare our gifts with the gifts of others?
3. Whose contributions are easily overlooked, and how can the church honor them more fully?
4. Where might God be inviting you to take a next step in serving or connecting at Trinity?
5. How is volunteering an expression of stewardship rather than simply filling a need?
6. What gifts does Trinity need in order to serve our community faithfully?

Many Gifts, One Mission

Mission requires more than one kind of gift. Circle the way you are most drawn to serve:

HANDS-ON WORK	HOSPITALITY	LISTENING	TEACHING
ADVOCACY	ORGANIZING	GIVING	PRAYER

Which Trinity Mission Partner might need that gift? _____

For a complete list of Trinity's Mission Partners visit: trinityhsv.org/giveback

Closing Prayer

God, you have made us members of one body and given each of us gifts to share. Free us from comparison and help us recognize the value of every person. Show us where we belong and how we can serve so that your grace may be known through us. Amen.

WEEK 3: WHEN LOVE LEAVES THE BUILDING

Matthew 25:31–40 • Micah 6:6–8

Read both passages slowly. Notice a word, phrase, or image that draws your attention.

Biblical and Theological Reflection

In Matthew 25, Jesus identifies himself with people who are hungry, thirsty, strangers, without adequate clothing, sick, and imprisoned. Those who serve them are surprised to discover that they have encountered Christ. Discipleship becomes visible through concrete acts of mercy, reminding us that love of God and love of neighbor cannot be separated.

Micah speaks to a community tempted to substitute impressive worship for faithful living. God has already revealed what covenant faithfulness requires: to do justice, embrace faithful love, and walk humbly with God. Mercy responds to immediate suffering, while justice confronts the barriers that cause and sustain it. Faithful worship must lead to faithful action.

Mission is stewardship in action. God has entrusted Trinity with people, finances, spiritual gifts, facilities, relationships, influence, and the Gospel. We use these gifts faithfully when we meet needs, create opportunities, build relationships, seek justice, and share Christ's love. Through this shared ministry, the church makes the good news visible in the world.

Discuss or Reflect

1. Why do you think the people in Jesus' story were surprised that they had served Christ?
2. How does seeing Christ in our neighbors change the way we understand mission?
3. Where do you see hunger, loneliness, injustice, illness, or exclusion in our community?
4. How can Trinity use its people and resources to respond more faithfully?
5. What is the relationship between meeting immediate needs and removing the barriers that create them?
6. Which of Trinity's partnerships helps you see stewardship becoming visible action?

Seeing Christ in Our Neighbors

Sit quietly and ask Jesus to help you see your community through his eyes. Think about the people and places you encounter each week. Who might be hungry, lonely, excluded, struggling, or overlooked? Consider one way you could respond through mercy, justice, generosity, or relationship.

Write one sentence describing how you will look for Christ in your neighbor and allow love to move beyond the walls of the church this week:

Closing Prayer

Jesus, open our eyes to recognize you in the people around us. Move our love beyond words and beyond the walls of the church. Use our hands, resources, and shared ministry to feed, welcome, visit, encourage, and seek justice in your name. Amen.

WEEK 4: GRACE CHANGES PEOPLE

Luke 19:1–10 • 2 Corinthians 5:17–20

Read both passages slowly. Notice a word, phrase, or image that draws your attention.

Biblical and Theological Reflection

Zacchaeus has become wealthy through an exploitative tax system. Yet before he explains himself or promises to change, Jesus sees him, calls him by name, and enters his home. Grace takes the initiative without ignoring the harm Zacchaeus has caused.

Zacchaeus responds with joy, generosity, and restitution. His giving does not earn Jesus' welcome; it is the fruit of grace. His response shows that repentance involves turning toward God and repairing what sin has damaged.

Paul calls this transformation "new creation." God reconciles us through Christ and entrusts us with the ministry of reconciliation. Christian stewardship follows the same pattern: God gives first, and we respond. Our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness testify that grace is changing our priorities and lives.

Discuss or Reflect

1. What do you notice about the order of welcome, grace, and generosity in Zacchaeus's story?
2. How can an encounter with grace change our relationship with money and possessions?
3. Where have you seen God change a life through Trinity's ministry?
4. What commitment is God inviting you to make through your prayers, presence, gifts, service, or witness?
5. What is the difference between giving from gratitude and giving from guilt or pressure?
6. What do you hope God will accomplish through Trinity's shared commitments in 2027?

A Generosity Examen

Pause with four movements:

RECEIVE — What grace have I received?

REMEMBER — Where have I seen generosity change a life?

RELEASE — What am I holding too tightly?

RESPOND — What joyful commitment am I ready to make?

Write one word or phrase you want to carry into Commitment Sunday:

Closing Prayer

Gracious God, you see us, call us by name, and welcome us before we have anything to offer. Let your grace reorder our priorities and renew our lives. Receive our commitments and use them to bring hope, healing, reconciliation, and light to others. Amen.