



S66 W14325 JANESVILLE RD • MUSKEGO WI 53150 • WELS • 414.422.0320 • WWW.STPAULMUSKEGO.ORG

Epiphany Sunday

AHA!

PREJUDICE – VALUING PEOPLE DIFFERENT FROM US

January 7, 8, and 11, 2017

Jesus is the Savior of all despite all our pride and prejudice about who we think ought to be saved and not saved.

BELLS AND WELCOME

OPENING HYMN 80, vv. 1-3

Angels from the Realms of Glory

M The grace of our Lord † Jesus Christ, the light of the world, and the love of God the Father and fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C **And also with you.**

M Aha! The light has come! Dear people, God faithfully fulfilled his promises to you when he sent the Messiah, the babe in Bethlehem, Jesus. His perfect life, death and resurrection rescued all people of the world from the terrors of their sin, lighting the path to heaven.

C **The light has come indeed.**

M Dear Lord, as we study your fulfilled promises, we see how often we have failed to keep our promises to you. We have kept the light to ourselves. Our prejudices have kept us from sharing the light with others. We have chosen paths of darkness that lead us away from you. For this we are truly sorry and come before you with humble hearts and ask your forgiveness.

C **Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful, and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior, Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

M God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

LORD HAVE MERCY

Kyrie

M For all that we need in life and for the wisdom to use all your gifts with gratitude and joy, hear our prayer, O Lord.



C: Lord, have mer - cy.

M For the steadfast assurance that nothing can separate us from your love and for the courage to stand firm against the assaults of Satan and every evil, hear our prayer, O Christ.



C: Christ, have mer - cy.

M For the well-being of your holy Church in all the world and for those who offer here their worship and praise, hear our prayer, O Lord.



C: Lord, have mer - cy.

M Merciful God, maker and preserver of life, uphold us by your power and keep us in your tender care.



C: A - men.

M The works of the Lord are great and glorious; his name is worthy of praise.

SONG OF PRAISE HYMN 79, v. 5

How Lovely Shines the Morning Star

Lift up the voice and strike the string,
Let all glad sounds of music ring
In God's high praises blended.
Christ will be with me all the way,
Today, tomorrow, ev'ry day
Till trav'ling days are ended.
Sing out, Ring out
Triumph glorious, O victorious Chosen nation;
Praise the God of your salvation.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- M Let us pray.
Jesus, our Savior, you came to rescue all peoples, Jew and Gentile alike, from the darkness of sin.
- C **O Lord, you do not show favoritism, but rather accept all those who fear and love you.**
- M Just as the star guided the Wise Men to you, may your Word guide us and others to you and your unending mercy.
- C **May the brilliance of God's grace beam brightly through your Word and show them the way to heaven.**
- M We pray in your name, Jesus. You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now, and forever.



FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 60:1-6, Bible page 742

The Lord's light shines, drawing people from all nations.

VERSE OF THE DAY

C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

These words are writ - ten that we may be - lieve that

Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

GOSPEL

Matthew 2:1-12, Bible page 966

The visit of the Magi

HYMN 90

The People that in Darkness Sat

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY (*Saturday*)**Wisemen Came from Afar, *Joel Nelson***

M As the Wise Men brought gifts of thanksgiving to you, dear Jesus, we humbly offer our gifts of love and gratitude to you today.

C O Jesus so sweet, O Jesus so mild!
 Joy fills the world which sin defiled.
 What e'er we have belongs to you;
 Oh, keep us faithful, strong, and true.
 O Jesus so sweet, O Jesus so mild!

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

M The Lord be with you.



C: And al - so with you.

M Lift up your hearts



C: We lift them up to the Lord.

M Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

M Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. In the past he spoke to us through the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, who is the radiance of his glory. Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory forever and ever.

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts.



The whole earth is full of your glo - ry.



You are my God, and I will ex - alt you.



I will give you thanks, for you have be - come my sal -



va - tion. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts.



The whole earth is full of your glo - ry.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

M The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: A - men.

O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD

C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; grant us your peace. A - men.

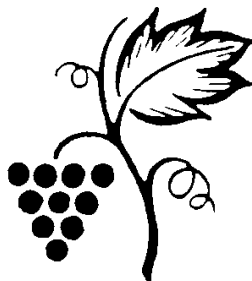
DISTRIBUTION OF THE SACRAMENT

Please see Communion note on page 8.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS 343

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**Christ Is the World's Light
Brightest and Best**



THANK THE LORD



C: Thank the Lord and sing his praise. Tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re-joice and proud-ly bear his name.



He re-news his prom-is - es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

M Merciful Father, we give you thanks and praise that you have fed us with the precious body and blood of your dear Son for the forgiveness of our sin. By your grace fill us with the desire and the power to walk worthy of our holy calling and to reflect your glory in our daily lives; through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C: A - men.

BLESSING

M Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and † give you peace.



C: A - men. A - men. A - men.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

POSTLUDE

PRESIDING MINISTER *(Sunday) Pastor David Kuehl*

ORGANIST *Carol Nelson*

OUR COMMUNION PRACTICE

The Lord's Supper is a fellowship meal. In this meal Jesus expresses his fellowship with us by giving us his body and blood for the forgiveness of sins. In this meal we also express our fellowship with each other, that is, that we are united in a common confession of faith.

We at St. Paul's want everyone to enjoy this fellowship meal. However, we cannot ask someone to express agreement with us until we give that person an opportunity to discover what we teach. That is why we schedule frequent membership classes to provide an overview of our teachings. Following the Promise is held on Tuesday evenings in the Faith Room. A new class begins January 17. You may indicate your interest by marking the back of the Connection Card.

If you are a member of St. Paul's or a member of a WELS or ELS congregation, we invite you to express our common confession by communing with us. You may wish to use the "Personal Preparation for Holy Communion" on page 156 of Christian Worship to examine yourself. Please register your intent to commune as a member or guest by filling out the Connection Card and placing it in the offering plate.

The light colored cups in the center of the individual cup tray contain non-alcoholic wine. Gluten-free wafers are located in the trays on the Communion rail. If you need a gluten-free wafer, please inform an usher as you approach the rail. The first pews in the right center section are reserved for those who have difficulty approaching the Communion rail, and we kindly ask those who desire to be communed privately to use these pews.

Your Ministerial Staff

Office (414) 422-0320

Pastor Jeffrey Bonack	Ext. 119	jbbonack@stpaulmuskego.org	(414) 422-0501
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Pastor David Kuehl	Ext. 121	dkuehl@stpaulmuskego.org	(262) 679-1393
Dan Lippert, BA	Ext. 120	dlippert@stpaulmuskego.org	(414) 232-4458
Mr. Phil Loescher	Ext. 123	ploescher@stpaulmuskego.org	(262) 305-8769
Dr. Joel Nelson	Ext. 145	jnelson@stpaulmusekgo.org	(414) 422-0320
Pastor Peter Panitzke	Ext. 122	ppanitzke@stpaulmuskego.org	(414) 350-1436
Sally Wallner	Ext. 294	swallner@stpaulmuskego.org	(414) 422-0320

WEEKLY CALENDAR

For the week of January 9, 2017

MON	10:00 am	Walking Club (Trinity Gym)
	7:00 pm	The Story Bible Study (Grace Room)
TUE	9:15 am	Ministerial Team Meeting
	9:30 am	Ladies Bible Study (Grace Room)
	10:00 am	Walking Club (Trinity Gym)
	12:00 pm	Organization of Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Seniors (OWLS) Meeting
	6:30 pm	Handbell Rehearsal (Church Balcony)
	7:00 pm	Volleyball League
WED	4:30 pm	Public School Confirmation Instruction Classes
	4:30 pm	<i>What Makes Teens Tick</i> Bible Study (Faith Room)
	7:00 pm	Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion
	8:00 pm	Brass Ensemble Rehearsal
THURS	6:30 am	Sunrise Bible Study (Faith Room)
	10:00 am	Walking Club (Trinity Gym)
	7:00 pm	The Bridge and Contemporary Band Practice
SAT	8:00 am	Men's Breakfast Bible Study (Grace Room)
	5:00 pm	Traditional Worship Service
SUN	7:45 am	Traditional Worship Service
	9:15 am	Traditional Worship Service
	9:15 am	Grace Room Bible Study
	9:15 am	Kids Club, Boost, and Pulse Youth Ministries
	9:45 am	The Bridge Communion
	10:15 am	The Bridge
	10:30 am	Cancer Support Group Meeting (Church Library)
	10:45 am	Contemporary Worship Service
5:00 pm	Awake and Alive (Trinity Café and Gym)	

Multimedia Ministry



- **TV:** *Time of Grace*, Sundays at 5:30 am on UPTV, 7:00 am on WBME, and 10:30 am on WDJT. Thursdays at 3:30 pm on TBN. For a complete broadcast schedule, visit timeofgrace.org/waystowatch or call the *Time of Grace* office at (800) 661-3311.
 - **Radio:** Lutheran Radio Church Service, Sundays at 7:00 am on JOY1340 AM
 - **Online:** Podcast and video sermons at www.stpaulmuskego.org and www.thebridgemuskego.org
 - **Live Streaming:** The Bridge, Sundays at 10:15 am at www.thebridgemuskego.org
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ST. PAUL'S NEWS

HOSPITALIZED

Dorothy Bucholtz is in hospice care at St. Ann's Nursing Home, Ruth Kurth at Brenwood Park, and Georgette Meyer at Layton Terrace. Donald Hanke is at Waukesha Memorial, and Payson Vahovick is at Children's.

PRAYERS REQUESTED

Please pray for the following individuals in their time of need: Dawn Brown, David Burkowitz, Jodie Crosby, Sharon Dreyer, Rick Drobka, Shelly Eggert, Namine Eiche, Monica Gawlik, Daniel Holtz, Dan Italiano, Dawn Jahns, Pat Johnson, Jacob Melso, Sandra Merfeld, Sonia Neuberger, Jeanne Steinbrecher, Alissa Thompson, and Wayne Wardin.

ATTENDANCE

Lutheran Elementary School Christmas Services: 1315, Christmas Eve: 1754, Christmas Day: 582, last weekend: 703

LUTHERAN PRE-K AND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE JANUARY 29

Can you invite someone? Can you tell someone about our schools? January and February are the months where many families are interested in learning more information about a school for their child. Whether this is for 3K, 4K, Kindergarten or transferring into a 1st-8th grade, all are welcome. Do you know someone like this? If so, please tell them to contact me at sfitzsimmons@stpaulmuskego.org or (414) 422-0320, ext. 118, to set up a visit. I would love to talk to them about our schools. Or, you could invite them to our Open House on Sunday, January 29, from 1:00 to 3:00 pm. At St. Paul's we offer:

- Flexible 3K & 4K programs
- Exemplary Accredited Pre-Kindergarten through 8th grade
- Before and after school extended care
- Year-round care for 3K through 4th grade
- Generous tuition assistance
- Participation in the Milwaukee and Wisconsin School Choice programs
- Online application process: www.stpaulmuskego.org

Sincerely in Christ,
Mr. Fitzsimmons

MISS STACK ACCEPTS ONE-YEAR CALL

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It is with immense joy that I can share that the Lord has led me to accept the divine call from St. Paul's Lutheran School to serve as 2nd grade teacher for the 2017-2018 school year. I am thankful for such a supportive and welcoming church and school family. Please keep my colleagues and me in your prayers as we train up the precious lives of the children entrusted to our care. To God be the glory!

Miss Candy Stack

(This is a one-year call in keeping with St. Paul's practice to issue one-year calls to teachers who are not yet "synod-certified." Miss Stack will be enrolling in the WELS synod-certification program this summer.)

THANK YOU FOR YOUR YEAR-END GIFTS!

Amazing generosity occurred at St. Paul's this Christmas season!

Thanks be to God the Holy Spirit for creating in you a desire to give generously.

Some of you have been blessed with much. As one generous soul put on his gift: "From the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked." (Luke 12:48)

Others have been entrusted with less financial wealth. But you too have shown yourself generous with what God has given you... both financially and in the giving of your time.

Large gift or small... **Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!**

Thank God for General Fund giving!

Your regular gifts to the General Fund make our ministry possible! Thank you for your regular and year-end gifts to the General Fund.

Thank God for Mortgage Fund giving!

We have received very generous gifts to the Mortgage Fund over the last couple of months that have enabled us to make \$50,000 in prepayments in December, saving about \$25,000 in interest and shaving five months off the duration of our mortgage. After the January 1 mortgage payment, our mortgage will be less than \$2 million, down from the initial \$3.55 million project that was completed less than 7 years ago.

Thank God for Wish List giving!

During the last few months we have received Wish List gifts that enabled us to purchase a grand piano—used for the first time on Christmas Eve! We have also received:

- \$4000 for Garden Homes Library
- \$3000 for the Trinity Gym divider curtain
- \$1000 for the Centennial Gym mats
- \$6000 for Tuition Assistance
- \$10,000 dedicated to missions!

Thank God for Foundation Gifts!

Last week we also received news that our three Antioch Foundation grant requests were approved:

- \$40,000 over two years for a new position of Resident Missionary,
- \$8000 for the Extended Learning Coordinator position, and
- \$5000 for Awake and Alive toward hosting a winter 2018 national collegiate conference.

Thank God for Your Generosity!

What Paul wrote about the generosity of the Corinthians is also true about St. Paul's!

This generous giving "is not only supplying the needs of God's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, people will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else. And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you because of the surpassing grace God has given you. Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!" (2 Corinthians 9:12-15)

ST. PAUL'S NEWS

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION

If God is moving you to want to begin giving more regularly in 2017, we'd suggest using online giving. Go to www.stpaulmuskego.org and click the online giving tab or use the QR code for our mobile friendly page.



LAST YEAR'S GIVING

Near the end of January, we will distribute year-end giving statements for tax purposes. However, you can retrieve your 2016 giving statements from your My St. Paul's page immediately. Log on, click your name on the upper right, and the "profile." You'll see the "Financial" tab as part of your profile. Thanks for all your gifts!

GIVING OF YOUR TIME

There is currently a need for more ushers to serve at all of our Sunday worship services in the sanctuary. If you'd be interested in helping, please contact Neal Wallner at neal.wallner@yahoo.com.

AWAKE AND ALIVE

Awake and Alive is a Christian event ministry for the 18-25 year-old generation in southeast Wisconsin. Awake and Alive exists to encourage this generation in their relationship with Jesus and to bring the healing and hope of Christ to their communities. Their winter gathering is Sunday, January 15, at 5:30 pm in the Trinity Café and Gym. Look for more information at awakealive.com.



I AM BUILT WORKSHOP – FEBRUARY 4

How often do you wonder what God built you to do?

Are you confident that your unique strengths, skills, and passions are all being used to their fullest?

St. Paul's is hosting an *I Am Built* Workshop, facilitated by Certified Christian Life Coach Emily Krill. During this 3-hour workshop you will discover, explore, and activate your God-given strengths with intention. In a small group setting you will unpack how exactly you uniquely reflect our Creator and you will shape a user-friendly mission statement that will transform your life into a mission!

I Am Built will be held in the Trinity Cafe on Saturday, February 4, from 9:00 am until noon. Register by marking the back of your Connection Card or by contacting St. Paul's member Emily Krill directly at ejkrill@gmail.com.

WHAT MAKES TEENS TICK?

What Makes Teens Tick? is a Bible study that will take a look at what's going on in an adolescent physiologically, psychologically, and spiritually and will give you powerful new insights to assist your vital parenting/grandparenting task. Join us for the two sessions: Wednesdays, January 11 and 18, from 4:30 to 6:00 pm in the Faith Room. The class will be presented by Dr. Joel Nelson, who has served families and teens for 38 years at local and national levels.

GROWING CLOSER TO CHRIST IN 2017

JANUARY SERMON SERIES – AHA!

In this four-week Epiphany series we'll explore world-changing, life-altering "aha" moments in the lives of a number of God's New Testament followers. It is our prayer that these "aha" moments will also help to bring clarity and understanding to us and to our spiritual journey today.



"When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life'" (John 8:12).

January 15	Peace	Finding the solutions to guilt and shame
January 22	Purpose	Experiencing a life worth living
January 29	Pleasure	Understanding a joy that nothing can destroy

THE PLACE TO BEGIN: *FOLLOWING THE PROMISE BIBLE STUDY*

Begins Tuesday, January 17, at 7:00 pm in the Grace Room

Pastor Panitzke will be teaching this 15-week study of the major themes of the Bible. This course is both a Bible introduction study and prepares an individual for membership in the congregation. Register by indicating your interest on the back of your Connection Card.

GO DEEPER: **STAND FIRM IN THE TRUE GRACE OF GOD**

Begins Sunday, January 8, at 9:15 am in the Grace Room

Seminary President Paul Wendland is teaching this 5-week course on I Peter. The letter of I Peter breathes with a message of living hope, aimed at those who feel more and more like strangers in a world that's not their home.

GO FARTHER: *FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY*

Begins Thursday, January 19, at 7:00 pm in the Grace Room

Financial Peace University is a 9-week DVD-based study providing a biblical approach to personal financial management. The presenter, Dave Ramsey, is a nationally-known speaker who has helped millions get out of debt. One St. Paul's couple shared this comment: "The recommendation of Financial University was a life saver for [our marriage] helping us understand each other." Indicate your interest by marking the back of your Connection Card.

GO LONGER: *THE STORY*

Resumes Monday, January 9, at 7:00 pm in the Faith Room

Pastor Panitzke is teaching *The Story*, a 31-week course that provides an overview of the entire biblical story by reading and discussing an abridged version of the Bible. This is a good time for new participants to join. Indicate interest on the Connection Card.

ST. PAUL'S NEWS

ST. PAUL'S CANCER SUPPORT GROUP MEETS JANUARY 15

"The doctor said I have cancer. I feel so alone." "The doctor told me someone I love has cancer, what do I do? I feel so alone." Many people feel alone in these situations, but God tells us, "Never will I leave you, never will I forsake you" (*Hebrews 13:5*). The St. Paul's Cancer Support Group would also like to offer support. We have members of all ages who have been affected by cancer in some manner. The group meets Sunday, January 15, at 10:30 am, in the church library. All are welcome.

A variety of information may also be found in the Cancer Support Group corner of the church library. If you are a cancer survivor, are currently battling cancer, or have friends or family members fighting the fight and would like to speak to someone for support, please contact Karen Schram at (414) 529-5544 or Judy Schmidt at gjschmidt@wi.rr.com.

5TH GRADE EXTRAVAGANZA

Our mission partner, Wisconsin Lutheran High School, is hosting a 5th Grade Extravaganza on Sunday, January 29, from 5:30 to 7:30 pm at Wisconsin Lutheran High School. The evening is free to all 5th grade students and their parents and includes an Italian dinner and a showcase of what Wisconsin Lutheran High School is all about. Plus, a Chromebook will be given away! Reserve your fifth grader's spot by January 20 at www.wlhs.org/page/registration. Through your offerings at St. Paul's, \$135,000 is given annually to support the mission and operations of Wisconsin Lutheran High School.

PICKLEBALL LEAGUE AT ST. PAUL'S

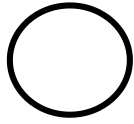
Join us for pickleball league beginning Thursday, January 19, from 7:00 to 9:00 pm, in the Trinity Gym. This winter session will run for 8 weeks. Two courts are competitive and two courts are social. Paddles and balls are provided, but you are welcome to bring your own. Sign up forms with further details are at the Welcome Center and on our website at www.stpaulmuskego.org. Please contact Cindy Proeber at (414) 801-2845 with questions.

ORGANIZATION OF WISCONSIN LUTHERAN SENIORS MEETS TUESDAY

The OWLS meeting will be held in the Grace Room on Tuesday, January 10, at 12:00 pm. The meal will be a "chili dump." Please bring a portion of your favorite chili to add to the pot and enjoy the provided entertainment. All seniors 55 and older are welcome.



Our vision is that by every possible means we bring every person in our area of influence closer to Christ through regular worship, small groups, and serving together.



GroupWork

Bible Study Discussion Starters

Life application materials for us in Connector Groups, home devotions, and other small groups.

AHA! PREJUDICE: VALUING PEOPLE DIFFERENT FROM US

1. Author E. B. White, who wrote the children's books *Charlotte's Web* and *Stuart Little* among other things said, "Prejudice is a great time saver. You can form opinions without having to get the facts."
 - What do you think he meant?

 - Will prejudice ever be eliminated? Explain.

2. In the 1st century church, there was a prejudice separating Jew and Gentile. Read Acts 10:1-48 to see the lengths the Holy Spirit went to overcoming that prejudice.
 - How did the Holy Spirit give Peter the courage to face this prejudice?

 - What would have made it uncomfortable for Peter to walk into Cornelius' home?

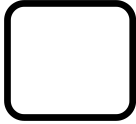
 - Share an example of how prejudice makes a place or a conversation "uncomfortable" for you. What can give you the courage to step into that place of discomfort?

3. "God does not show favoritism, but accepts people from every nation..." Why is understanding that God accepts you (even though you don't deserve it) the first step toward overcoming prejudice?

4. "Be quick to listen" (James 1:19). Listening and learning is another important step in overcoming prejudice? Share an example of something you have learned about others that helped you overcome some area of prejudice in your life.

5. What is your story? Share a time when you learned (or learned anew) that God accepts you and forgives you. Begin with: "I realized that God accepted me when..." On a separate sheet, write out your story or make an outline of it before your small group meets. In the small group, break into groups of three so that every person has time to share their story.

6. React to this statement: It is not the pastor's job to teach in a way to reach the people you know. His job is to teach you. Your job is to reach the people you know.



NoteSheet

Sermon Outline

Take notes during the sermon to help you remember the main points

Aha! Valuing Those Different From Us

Acts 10:34-38

1. See them as God sees them

- a. “God does not show favoritism.” Why is this good news for you?
- b. You will look like your father. But who is your father?
John 8:44 or Matthew 5:43-48
- c. Who is the “them” that makes you uncomfortable?

2. Step into the place of discomfort

- a. A Gentile home
 - b. *Selma* and the Passion Conference
 - c. What is the place of discomfort to which God is calling you?
-

3. Share what you know

- a. Your story: (James 1:19) Be quick to _____
- b. My story (May I tell you how Jesus has changed my life?)
- c. God’s story

My Next Steps

- **Step 1: Know how God sees you.** Read Psalm 103 every day this week. If possible, commit verses 8-13 to memory.
- **Step 2: Know others.** Watch *Selma* and/or *13th* on Netflix. See life from another perspective.
- **Step 3: Step into the place of discomfort.** Pray about those in your areas of influence. How can you step into their world to know them better?
- **Step 4: Share what you know.** If you are not attending a Bible study right now, register for *Following the Promise* or *The Story* or begin daily Bible reading so that God’s story can impact your life and you are better prepared to share God’s story with others.