

Among evangelical Protestants, nearly 2 in 5 (37-39%) say the pandemic has strengthened their faith.

By the second Easter of the pandemic, church attendance for Easter had risen but wasn't back to typical levels; around 2 in 5 Christians (37-39%) said they planned to go in person this year, compared to the 62% who normally do.

(source: 3.22.21 www.christianitytoday.com/news/2021/march/pew-easter-church-attendance-evangelical-in-person-covid.html)

- Read **Luke** once each month in 2021 and journal (journals are available @ *The Connection Corner*, suggested donation, \$4).

If you have any questions,
please reach out to us and let us serve you
(417-682-2118 or office@fcclamar.org).

Thank you!

Upcoming Weeks

We're a JESUS Church!
A Red-Letter Year — Gospel of Luke

Jesus – Lord of All

April 25	1 - <i>He's Lord of Life – 9:18-27</i>
May 2	2 - <i>He's Lord of Hills & Valleys – 9:28-43</i>
May 9	3 - <i>He's Lord of Our Attitudes – 9:46-62</i>
May 16	4 - <i>He's Lord of Our Relationships – 10:25-37</i>
May 23	5 - <i>He's Lord of Our Priorities – 10:38-42</i>
May 30	6 - <i>He's Lord of Our Prayers – 11:1-13</i>

Invite a friend to join you!
It could be a day they'll remember for eternity!

FCC Lamar - April 18, 2021

Jesus – Compassionate Friend # 7 ***He's a Friend Who Guides Us*** **Luke 9:1-6, 10-11**

This passage marks a significant transition for our Lord Jesus.

Approximately _____ of His three-year ministry is over, and His death on the cross is about _____ months away.

Up until now, the Twelve observed, listened, questioned, and learned, but Jesus instructed. The time had come for His trainees to put their learning into practice.

The instructions Jesus gave His disciples before sending them out were _____ to them – their time, their mission, their circumstances, their particular needs in the training process.

Still, there are some helpful guidelines for us today . . .

1. Keep the main thing _____.

“ . . . He sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God . . . ”

Our preeminent charge is to teach the _____ in love (Eph. 4:15).

2. Prepare well, but travel _____ . (v. 3)

He told them: “Take nothing for the journey—no staff, no bag, no bread, no money, no extra shirt.

Maintaining balance - can sometimes be difficult . . .

We tend to think of good preparation as packing *more* stuff for the journey . . .

Jesus wasn't saying, "Don't plan; just go; wing it." In fact, when announcing His departure from the earth, He gave them different instructions (**23:35-36**).

Jesus was encouraging them (and us) to stay _____ on the mission – to be careful that we don't get so caught up in planning for every contingency that we forget about the mission itself.

By "traveling light," we spend less time thinking about *how* we meet the objectives and focus more on actually getting them accomplished.

3. Lighten up and get _____. (v. 5)

*If people do not welcome you, leave their town
and shake the dust off your feet . . .*

Not everyone _____ the truth. Not everyone will like what you have to say.

We need to learn to _____ to objections and take in constructive criticism, but don't fear what people think. Don't spend more time thinking about what your critics think than on what God thinks.

Ask God for thicker skin and learn to laugh at yourself; it'll help!

4. Invite the _____ of people you trust and respect. (v. 10)

*When the apostles returned, they reported to Jesus
what they had done. Then He took them with Him
and they withdrew by themselves to Bethsaida . . .*

When the Twelve returned, they debriefed the mission with Jesus. In fact, He took them on a disciples' retreat in order to rest and reflect.

"I love the man that can smile in trouble,
that can gather strength from distress,
and grow brave by reflection.
'Tis the business of little minds to shrink,
but he whose heart is firm,
and whose conscience
approves his conduct,
will pursue his principles unto death."

Thomas Paine

Getting people you trust and respect to offer helpful critique and constructive praise will help you plan better and worry less. In addition, the carping criticism of others will carry less weight.

"If you can't stand the heat, you'd better get out of the kitchen."
Harry S Truman

Closing Questions for Application

- 1). Who do you need to allow to speak into your life?
- 2). Who do you need to **stop** listening to?
- 3). Who is God leading you to speak into their life?