**Wealth, Poverty, & the People of God: Following Jesus**

**Call To Worship for Community Gatherings 02/07-02/15**

Leader: Lord, this year, we will follow the Star of Bethlehem.

**All: Too long we've gone the wrong way, Followed the wrong stars!**

Leader: We went South following movie stars, greed, and lust.
**All: Star of Wonder...**

Leader: We went East following stars of militarism, nationalism, and war.
**All: Star of Light...**

Leader: We even went North following our own visions, our own intuition, and our own way.
**All: Star with Royal Beauty Bright...**

Leader: Lord, this year, we will follow the Star of Bethlehem.
**All: The Star of Hope.**
Leader: The Star of Peace.
**All: The Star of Joy.**
Leader: The Star of Love.
**All: The Star that is You.**

*Suggested Songs*

“In Christ Alone” – Keith Getty & Stuart Townend

“Our God” – Chris Tomlin

“How He Loves” - David Crowder Band

“I Surrender All” – Traditional Hymn

**Prayer:**

*Break into groups of 2-3 and share something you are grateful for and something that you would like to let go. Lay hands and prayer for one another*

**Read 2 Corinthians 8:1-15**

*Recap of last week’s sermon, a brief reflection or devotion on the topic of Discipleship*

 **Wealth, Poverty, & The People of God**

**“Money and the People of God” – Discussion Questions**

1. What are some of the ways people have told you to use your money?
2. During his sermon, Christopher talked about how often times we approach the Bible asking, “What should I do?” Why can this be problematic?
3. Instead of the above question, he suggested that we should ask, “Who is God?” Why is this question a better place to start?
4. Christopher shared that, “How we think about and how we behave with our wealth and possessions is not so much about morals and ethics as it is an embodied declaration about what we believe to be most true about God, the world, and history. We put our money where our mouths are.” If this is true, how can our money reflect what we believe about God?
5. What did Paul mean when he said, “For if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what one does not have” (2 Cor. 8:12)?
6. In verses 13-15, he mentions the concept of equality in the body. He encouraged them to provide for the needs of others out of their plenty, and that in their time of need others would do the same for them. How does this rhythm of plenty and need impact how we do things in Plowshares?

**Communion Liturgy**

*Now we are about to enter into a time of Communion. During Communion we remember Christ’s life, ministry, and sacrifice for us. We also give thanks to God for his Salvation that we are all invited to enjoy and participate in.*

On the night in which Jesus gave himself up for us he took bread and blessed it and said,

“This is my Body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

In the same way also he took the cup, after super, saying,

“This is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

Now Father, pour our you Spirit on these gifts that they may be for us the Body and Blood of Jesus, poured out and broken for the life of the world. And pour our your Spirit on us gathered here that we may be the Body of Christ, redeemed by his blood, and a light to the world. Amen.

*Pass the bread and the cup around the circle so that each person serves his/her neighbor.*

Suggested Songs: Amazing Grace, Nothing But the Blood, You Make Beautiful Things, The Doxology

**Continue to Worship as you enjoy good friends, good food, and good conversation!**

**Blessing:**

Brothers and Sisters –

Rejoice! Strive for full restoration,

Encourage one another, be of one mind,

Live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you.

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God,

and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.