

**OPEN**

What do you suppose the shepherds did on the first Christmas after they heard the angels and after they went and saw baby Jesus? The end of the account tells us that “the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God” (Luke 2:20). That is, they went back to their flocks. The shepherds returned to work.

This may sound anti-climactic, perhaps even unspiritual, but it is neither. Having received the newborn Christ in faith, they turned to serve their neighbors in love.

So it is for us today. As people who GET Christ’s forgiveness and who GROW in grace and knowledge of Christ, we GLOW with His love in our callings and church, and we GO and tell the good news about Him.

Think of yourself as a glass that has been filled with the forgiving love of Christ, filled so much that love now spills out from you into the lives of others. Again and again, He forgives and fills you as you GET His gifts.

**The Four Areas of Discipleship?**

**GET** Christ’s forgiveness in Word and Sacrament.

**GROW** in grace and knowing Him.

**GLOW** with His love in your callings and through your local church.

**GO** tell the Good News about Him in your callings (vocations) and through your local church.

Today, lesson 5 begins our study of step 3, which is the GLOWing with His love in our callings/vocations, church, community, and world.

**Transformed to Love (GLOW)**

You are the beneficiary of Christ’s love and sacrifice for you. But there is more to the story, Christ pours His love into you so you may go forth loving others with the love He has given you. When you love like Christ, you GLOW, like a city on a hill that cannot be hidden.

**Luke 19:1-10**

What does Zacchaeus do, without the Lord’s demanding it of him? What led to this transforming love of Zacchaeus?

Where is the first place/vocation where Zacchaeus pours the love of Jesus out?

Does anyone have a story of anyone they know or even themselves who have experienced a similar transformation, like Zacchaeus? Were people shocked? Please share.

**1 Corinthians 7:17-24**

Regardless of when we came to faith, what are we reminded of in this passage?

Share what you consider to be your present vocations, with the group. Consider the following areas: Family, Occupation, Community, and Church.

Which vocation of yours could really use your GLOWing for the benefit of others? Are you willing to be filled with Christ’s love and pour it out in this moment? When will you start?

**Galatians 2:19-20**

<sup>19</sup> For through the law I died to the law, so that I might live to God. <sup>20</sup> I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

In what way have you been freed for a life of service and love toward God and others? What words does St. Paul use to help us better understand this?

**Prayer Time:**

Pray about upcoming service opportunities at OSL, on March 23. Check with Newsletter, Impact, or with Robyn and Brandy about getting plugged in to GLOW with fellow members.

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