

**Cross of Hope Making Faith Connections Small Group Ministry**

**September 21, 2025**

**15<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost (Lectionary 25)**

**Say What!? – Whom do you serve?**

15 Minutes     **Gathering and Check-in ... *share where you've encountered God this week.***

Prayer     God among us, we gather in the name of your Son to learn love for one another. Keep our feet from evil paths. Turn our minds to your wisdom and our hearts to the grace revealed in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen. (ELW p48)

45 Minutes     **Introduction:** As we are invited today to consider what it means to be managers (rather than owners) of all that we have, it is crucial to recognize that we are bought with a price. "Christ Jesus, himself human, . . . gave himself a ransom for all." Apart from the generosity of God we have nothing—we are nothing. By God's gracious favor we have everything we need. (from Sundays and Seasons)

**Discussion Questions:**

Read again Luke 16:1-13

What do you notice about this story as you read/hear it this time?

What is challenging or confusing as you read/hear it this time - *Say What!?*

Why can't you serve both God and wealth? (v13)

How does this passage show God's generosity?

Why are followers of Jesus called to live with this same generosity?

How is generosity an act?

How is generosity a way of life?

Does motivation matter when it comes to generosity?

Besides money/wealth, what are things you can be generous with?

How are you generous with the gospel/kingdom of God?

Read again Amos 8:4-7

What do you notice about this story as you read/hear it this time?

What does God think of corrupt business practices and oppression of the poor through Amos' prophesy here?

Does this passage help or hinder our reflection of today's gospel story? Why?

What does this prophesy to the Northern Kingdom of Israel reveal about God and how does it inform our faithful living today?

Read again 1 Timothy 2: 1-7

What do you notice about this story as you read/hear it this time?

How is our prayer for others an testimony to how God feels toward us?

Read and reflect on Psalm 113 if you'd like.

20 Minutes     **Prayer Requests and Prayer**

10 Minutes     **Wrap Up and Get Ready to Leave Session**