

Making Faith Connections - Cross of Hope Small Group Ministry
June 21, 2026
Point/Counter-point – Fourth Sunday after Pentecost (Lectionary 12)

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

Prayer Teach us, good Lord God, to serve you as you deserve, to give and not to count the cost, to fight and not to heed the wounds, to toil and not to seek for rest, to labor and not to ask for reward, except that of knowing that we do your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen. (ELW p40)

Introduction: God does not promise that the path of the disciple will be easy. Jeremiah feels the pain of rejection from those who do not want to hear what he has to say. Jesus declares that his words may bring stark division. Even so, we need not be afraid for God accounts for each hair on our heads. Though we may experience rejection, frustration, division, and death, God's grace and love make us a new creation each day. Marked with the cross and filled with holy food, we are sent from worship to witness to Christ in the world. (from Sundays and Seasons)

Discussion Questions:

Read again Matthew 10:24-39

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?

What do you do when you encounter scripture that challenges you?

What does this passage teach us about discipleship?

How is Jesus different than a typical teacher or leader?

How do we find our life in Christ?

How does this then connect us to others? Disconnect or divide us from others?

What does finding our life in Christ mean for how we understand our own life?

How can I be both uniquely me and find myself united with others in Christ?

How does this passage keep us from a false peace or false narrative of who Christ was?

Read again Romans 6:1b-11

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?

How do we find ourselves in Christ according to this passage?

What does that say about our life?

What does it look like to *walk in newness of life*?

Explore the image of death and life in this passage.

How does this passage relate to today's gospel?

What does this passage reveal about discipleship?

Read and reflect on Jeremiah 20: 7-13 and Psalm 69:7-10,16-18 if you'd like.

Prayer Requests and Prayer