

# THE JOURNEY



## Bible Reading Schedule

March 23	Joshua 9, 10	Luke 3
March 24	Joshua 11, 12, 13	Luke 4:1-32
March 25	Joshua 14, 15	Luke 4:33-44
March 26	Joshua 16, 17, 18	Luke 5:1-16
March 27	Joshua 19, 20	Luke 5:17-39
March 28	Joshua 21, 22	Luke 6:1-26
March 29	Joshua 23, 24	Luke 6:27-49

### Rejected [Luke 4:14-30]

Which newspaper headlines best summarizes this passage?

- Local man returns with big claims!       Synagogue scene turns violent  
 Preacher incites Mob to Riot               other \_\_\_\_\_

Why were people in Nazareth having trouble accepting Jesus?

- Jealousy     spiritually blind     he was only a carpenter's son  
 Rumors of "illegitimate birth"     he was a traitor by affirming gentiles

Why do you think Jesus didn't perform a miracle here?

- Lacked faith     wasn't his purpose at the time     they still would have rejected him  
 he wasn't a crowd pleaser     nothing to prove

Where do you find it hardest to be accepted?

- Around stranger     at church     at work     With my family  
 With friends     sporting events     formal occasion

How do you generally deal with feelings of rejection?

- Withdraw and mope     strike back in anger     get hardened  
 Try to laugh them off     talk about them with a friend     pray about it

What kind of pressures are you facing right now?

- Relational     emotional     financial     spiritual     health  
 job/career     mental     depression     worry

Living Lent: Appropriate Smallness

First United Methodist Church

SEEK<sup>HIM CONSTANTLY</sup>  
SERVE<sup>HIM FAITHFULLY</sup>  
SHARE<sup>HIM BOLDLY</sup>

Appropriately  
Small  
The Practice of Servanthood

Messiah Complex ...

- (1) The ability to easily recognize pride in others.  
Pride destroys our capacity to love.
- (2) A willingness to suffer for what's wrong. (Prov. 29:1)  
Pride must be defended at all costs.
- (3) Lack of personal involvement in serving.  
Pride moves us to judge rather than to serve.

▶ We are strongest in our **Weakness**

**"Now, with God's help, I shall become myself."**

*"We help others not because we are strong and they need us; it is because if we don't help, we will end up a hopeless relic." J. Ortberg*

▶ The Ministry of the **Mundane**

**"if you are as humble as this child,  
you are the greatest in the kingdom of heaven."** v 5

*"The flesh whines against service, but screams against hidden service." R. Foster*

▶ The Ministry of being **Interrupted**

Keeping the latch always off the door

**FUMC: a society of recovering messiahs**

- Day of Availability** – The goal is simply to serve without an agenda
- Active Helpfulness** – simple assistance in small unnoticed matters
- Intentional Accountability** – review of motives, feelings, and actions

Living Lent: Appropriate Smallness

First United Methodist Church

## Matthew 18:1-6 (CEV )

---

### *Who is Greatest?*

<sup>1</sup>About this time the disciples came to Jesus and asked him who would be the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. <sup>2</sup>Jesus called a child over and had the child stand near him. <sup>3</sup>Then he said:

I promise you this. If you don't change and become like a child, you will never get into the kingdom of heaven. <sup>4</sup>But if you are as humble as this child, you are the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. <sup>5</sup>And when you welcome one of these children because of me, you welcome me.

<sup>6</sup>It will be terrible for people who cause even one of my little followers to sin. Those people would be better off thrown into the deepest part of the ocean with a heavy stone tied around their necks!

**Proverbs 29:1 “One who is often reproved, yet remains stubborn, will suddenly be broken beyond healing.”**

If you have come to help me, you are wasting your time. But if you have come because your liberation is bound up with mine, then let us work together. ABORIGINAL ACTIVISTS GROUP, QUEENSLAND

**Avoid becoming a Big Fish in a little pond**