

## Suggested Texts for Bible Studies

Various Bible study methods should be considered: lectio divino, different translations, paraphrases and readings, especially reflecting on how the texts speak to the congregation at this point in its history

***Texts related to mission:*** *the congregation's vision, purpose, identity, context, program, future; i.e. - who it is, what it does, where it is, where it's going.*

- Matthew 28:16-20: The Great Commandment: Jesus' commission to his disciples; what are we about?
- Luke 10:29-37: The Good Samaritan: who is our neighbor?
- Acts 2: 41-47: Characteristics of a healthy church
- 2 Corinthians 5: 16-21: Christians as a new creation; the ministry of reconciliation; ambassadors for Christ
- 1 Peter 2:4-10: The "holiness" of God's people; images of the church as a spiritual house, living stones, a holy priesthood. How is God "building" our church?
- 1 Corinthians 12:1-11: Spiritual Gifts in their great variety; how we use God's gifts to us; how we relate and respect one another's gifts
- 1 Corinthians 12:12-27: The Body of Christ; members of the body work together, suffer together, rejoice together
- Ephesians 4:1-16: An appeal for unity; with spiritual gifts, the Body of Christ builds itself up in love
- Micah 6:1-8: What does the Lord require of you?

***Texts related to call:*** *the call to follow, to serve, to lead: now and in the future*

- Genesis 12:1-9: The call of Abram and Sarai and a people of faith
- Isaiah 6:1-13: The call of Isaiah. How does our context affect our call? The call of leadership in our culture?
- Jeremiah 1:1-10: The call of Jeremiah. What does God's Word have to do with it?
- Matthew 5:1-14: The Beatitudes: Jesus' blessings, characteristics of his followers. The "call of blessing," styles and characteristics of leadership
- Acts 9:1-9  
The call of Paul (conversion of Saul) on the road to Damascus
- Acts 1:15-26  
The call of Matthias; gathering of the Twelve to elect a replacement for Judas