

**“DRAW THE CIRCLE WIDE, RIPPLES OF THE SPIRIT”**  
**“Ripples of Choice”**

The freedom we are given through Jesus Christ is how we live out a life of serving our neighbors and Christ. Throughout the sermon series “Draw the Circle Wide,” Jesus has set the tone for how we are to live with diversity and inclusivity of all people. This week, through the work of the Holy Spirit we are called to take action and to claim our choice to live with the freedom given by the grace of Jesus Christ. This freedom means drawing our circle wider by serving neighbor and God. Choosing to follow Jesus is a response to the grace that is extended to us. Accepting that grace is how we journey with Christ through discipleship. Won’t you follow Jesus and continue to draw the circle wide?  
Pastor Rebecca Goltry Mohr

Things I’d like to remember from today’s sermon: **“Ripples of Choice”**

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**Daily prayer:** Lord, we want to follow you wherever you lead. Reach out to us this day, stirring our souls and spirits with the winds of your power that we may faithfully be your disciples. For we ask this in Jesus’ Name. Amen.

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This week’s sermon may be viewed at <http://sundaystreams.com/go/firstwichita>

## Study Guide

### Monday, July 8, 2019 Luke 9:51-56

In this scripture Jesus sets his face to Jerusalem, thus beginning the Lukan travel narrative. Once Jesus sets his face toward Jerusalem, there is a major shift in the gospel denoting less healing/ miracles and more preaching/ teaching. This change and persistence portrays Jesus Christ as our Messiah who lives into his choice to set his face toward Jerusalem. Jesus desires a kingdom life where justice is present for all that is why he journeys to Jerusalem which will ultimately end with death on a cross. Jesus' leadership is a choice, and the disciples in the scripture also have to make the choice to follow Jesus. *How does Jesus setting his face to Jerusalem make a difference in your life? Have there been times in your life when you have been bold and led others into uncharted territory? What discernment methods have you practiced when choosing to make life-altering decisions?*

### Tuesday, July 9, 2019 Luke 9:57-62

Christian discipleship is something that we all aspire to grow in, we know that it takes dedication. There are often obstacles that get in the way of discipleship. The scripture tells us a disciple had a concern about burying a loved one before they can follow Jesus. It is so easy to get distracted with real pressing matters of this world. This scripture invites you to think about how you might be a devoted follower of Jesus as a top priority in life. This is a hard ask, but living out practices of discipleship as a priority create a more ordered life where Jesus is present throughout each aspect of our lives. *For one day, make a list of excuses you make that prevent you from following Jesus. At the end of the day find a black marker and draw circles around practices that can be re-oriented into practices of discipleship. You might notice that what we perceive as reasons to not follow Jesus, can be structured into spiritual practices with the right intentionality.*

### Wednesday, July 10, 2019 Isaiah 66:10-13

Rejoice with Jerusalem, and be glad for her! This scripture portrays the rebuilding of Jerusalem as a mother who bountifully feeding her children. The connection a mother has with her offspring, is strong. The necessity of nutrients to grow and mature is unavoidable in infancy. Jerusalem is also in infancy as it is in the midst of restoration. The people of Jerusalem are given the choice to follow God's commands and dwell in the city with righteousness. The connection that God entrusts to God's people is a connection that reminds us of this gift of growing into a people who can help one another grow into the best versions of ourselves. *Today- think of people who rely on you to help sustain and nurture them. Say a prayer for them. Next, think of a person who has nurtured you, tell that person, "thank you," in whatever way will best connect you to them.*

### Thursday, July 11, 2019 Galatians 5:1, 13-15

Within Paul's scope of writing to the church at Galatia, there are many references to Jewish figures and household customs that are used as counter arguments for explaining his notion of freedom in Christ. Freedom according to Paul is the paradoxical fulfillment in loving service rather than in self-indulgence. Paul identifies the out-come and evidence of true freedom with the fruit that the Holy Spirit bears in people whose lives have been transformed by God's grace. *It has been one week since the USA celebrates Independence Day. Make a vein diagram that compares worldly freedom and Christian freedom. Where do selfish desires reside? Where does serving others align? What tangible actions can you take to live into the freedom Christ has given you by grace alone?*

### Friday, June 12, 2019 Galatians 5:16-25

"Paul's ultimate concern in practical; faith communities, churches and families who operate with love and self-control flourish. Those who foster competition, arrogance, and disregard for others destroy themselves. For Paul, the answer to competition rivalries is for every member of Christ to conform herself to Christ's faithfulness and to serve each other through love." (Fogg, Julia Lambert, PhD in the CEB women's bible) *Reflect on how you conform to Christ's faithfulness. Journal about how you can commit to serve your community, church and family through love. If you have a friend or family member you meet with today or this weekend, verbalize some of the items you wrote in your journal to make the action more concrete.*