

Look Book Took
Year C, Easter 5
What does a Christian Look Like?

Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know your Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Look:

Describe what it means to be part of an organization to which you belong? How might people know you belong to that organization (can be work or extracurricular).

Book:

Acts 11:1-18

Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, saying, "Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?" Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, "I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. I also heard a voice saying to me, 'Get up, Peter; kill and eat.' But I replied, 'By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' But a second time the voice

answered from heaven, 'What God has made clean, you must not call profane.' This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, 'Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.' And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?" When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, "Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life."

1. How is Peter following Christ in his actions?
2. What do you think is significant about the animals no longer being "profane" or "unclean?"
3. Who is now included in following Jesus who was once excluded?
4. If you were a gentile of this age, why might you want to follow these teachings of Jesus and the message that Jesus brings?
5. Does anything in this passage not make sense to you?

John 13:31-35

At the last supper, when Judas had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

1. What has just occurred at the Last Supper?
2. Why do you think Jesus calls them "little children?"
3. The Old Testament calls us to love our neighbors too and to love God. What do you think is "new" about this commandment?
4. The first lesson had an example of the exclusion of the gentiles. How does this lesson inform the now inclusion of gentiles?

Took:

How might people know that you are a believer in Christ? What do you do differently because you believe in Jesus?

Jesus is the only one who perfected the Old Testament law to love. If we cannot be as perfect as Jesus, then how do you follow him?

What do you think it means to "love one another." How do we as Christians "love" in a different way that the secular world loves?

When is it hard to love? When is it easy to love?

What sacrifices do we have to make in order to follow Jesus as we love one another?

How do we as a community at St. David's love distinctly as Christians? In which ways might we be called to further love distinctly?

What might you do this week as a Christian to show love for one another that you might not normally do?

Will you do it?