

STUDY GUIDE FOR THE WEEK OF: February 24, 2008

THE NEXT CHAPTER

STEVE SCHIBSTED

WEEK 5 OF THE SERIES

“CORE VALUE: REACHING OUT”

Scripture

Luke 4:16-21

¹⁶ He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. And he stood up to read. ¹⁷ The scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written: ¹⁸ "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, ¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." ²⁰ Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him, ²¹ and he began by saying to them, "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."

I Corinthians 12:12-14; 27

¹² The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ. ¹³ For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body-- whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free-- and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. ¹⁴ Now the body is not made up of one part, but of many.

²⁷ Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.

Study Notes

We now come to the second of our five core values—Reaching Out. Here is the statement: *God is reaching out with grace to all people. We are joining our Lord in this mission of righteousness and peace, demonstrating the good news of God's unending mercy and love for a hurting world. We are Christ's hands and feet --- indeed, his ambassadors --- in our everyday lives. Ultimately, our church does not exist for itself, but for those around us.*

Questions For Further Reflection and Small Group Discussion

1. What do we learn about Christ's purpose and ministry from Luke 4:16-21?
2. What do we learn about the church from Paul's description of it in I Corinthians 12:12-14, 27?
3. Saint Theresa of Avila once said, "*Christ has no body on earth but yours, no feet but yours. Yours are the eyes through which Jesus touches the world. Yours are the hands with which he blesses.*" What does she mean by this statement? Do you believe it? Do you see yourself as the hands and feet of Christ? His ambassador? Why or why not?
4. Where do you think more ministry can be done in the name of Christ—at 208 West First Street or at all the places where the 1500 or so people who call Bidwell their church find themselves everyday? What would happen in Chico if each

one of us saw ourselves as Christi's ambassadors scattered throughout our community all during the week?

5. Are you involved in any sort of local mission? Is your small group serving in some way as a group? Perhaps look over the Local Mission brochure passed out in worship on Sunday (also posted on the web) and choose one that your small group can take on as a service project.