

GCFSM SUNDAY BULLETIN

APRIL 26, 2026
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SERMON OUTLINE

FOLLOWING JESUS #10

POWER TO TRANSFORM ALL WHO FOLLOW

LUKE 8:1-56 | REV. DON GUICO

Following Jesus is not only about believing in Him—it is about experiencing His transforming power in our lives. In Luke 8:1-56, we see that when faith truly follows Jesus, His power is at work in every situation. This passage shows how Jesus transforms those who respond to Him in faith.

Jesus went through cities and villages, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God, and those who followed Him participated in His mission. As He taught the parable of the sower, He revealed that the Word of God produces fruit only in those who hear it, hold fast to it, and persevere. The same Word was given to all, but the outcome depended on how it was received. Transformation begins with how the Word is received, not merely how it is heard. (Luke 8:1-15)

He then taught that His true family consists of those who hear the Word of God and do it. He warned them to take care how they hear, showing that hearing carries responsibility before God. This showed that transformation is seen in obedience, not merely in hearing. (Luke 8:16-21)

As Jesus crossed the lake, He rebuked the wind and the waves and brought calm, then asked, "Where is your faith?" His question exposed the disciples' fear and called them to trust Him more fully. In the region of the Gerasenes, He cast out demons and restored a man who had been under their control. The man was then sent to declare what God had done, showing that restoration leads to witness. These accounts revealed His authority over danger and the spiritual realm. (Luke 8:22-39)

Finally, Jesus healed a woman who had suffered for twelve years and raised Jairus' daughter from the dead. In both situations, He called for faith before the outcome was seen, not after it was resolved. These events showed that His power brings healing and life, even when situations appear beyond hope. (Luke 8:40-56)

Jesus' transforming power is revealed through His Word, demonstrated in His authority, and experienced in His presence, and is at work in all who follow Him. The purpose of this sermon is to assure believers that discipleship is marked by encountering His transforming power, leading us to trust Him in every situation as we follow Him. ✠

UNDERSTANDING WHAT GOD HAS GIVEN— AND GUIDING THE NEXT GENERATION

REV. LITO VILLORIA

One of my devotions this week brought me to a powerful reminder from 1 Corinthians 2:12:

"Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God." - 1 Corinthians 2:12

This passage speaks directly to how we think, how we decide, and how we live. Paul makes it clear that spiritual understanding does not begin with us—it begins with God. We have already received the Spirit. Because of this, we are now able to understand what God has already given.

This changes everything.

We are not striving to earn what God will give. We are learning to understand what God has already given.

Yet, in reality, many of us still default to the "spirit of the world." We analyze, reason, and try to figure things out on our own. The issue is not intelligence—it is orientation. The question is not how well we think, but what shapes how we think.

This becomes even more important when we consider the next generation.

Our children today are growing up in a world filled with competing voices. The "spirit of the world" constantly shapes how they define truth, identity, success, and purpose. If left unaddressed, this influence will quietly form their thinking apart from God.

That is why we must be intentional.

As a church, we are not only called to grow in our understanding of what God has given—we are also called to guide the next generation to see, understand, and experience these same truths.

This is where our responsibility becomes clear.

We must not only seek the Spirit's wisdom, shun worldly thinking, and savor God's blessings in our own lives—we must also create environments where our children can do the same.

This is what we are seeking to do through our Summer Jam 2026 activities.

Beginning this week, we are offering a series of programs designed not just to engage our children, but to shape how they think—anchored in God's truth, guided by His Word, and influenced by His people.

From Junior Chef and Crafty Kids, to Vacation Bible School (VBS) and the GROW Kids Fieldtrip, these activities provide more than skills and experiences. They create opportunities for our children to learn, build relationships, and be exposed to biblical truths in a meaningful way.

Our Sports Clinic also provides a setting where discipline, teamwork, and character can be developed within a Christ-centered environment.

These are not just activities. They are intentional avenues for discipleship.

In a season where children can easily spend their time consumed by screens, shaped by social media, or influenced by unguided environments, we are

offering a clear alternative—one that points them to Christ.

But this will require our participation.

As parents, grandparents, and church family, we are called to be intentional in how we guide our children. We cannot leave their formation to chance. We must take deliberate steps to place them in environments where they can grow in truth.

Let us see this not as an obligation but as an opportunity.

An opportunity to invest in their spiritual lives.
An opportunity to influence how they think.
An opportunity to help them understand what God has already given.

For those who may not have children in this season of life but would like to support this work, you may consider designating a special offering—over and above your regular giving—to support our Children's Ministry. Kindly indicate "Children's Ministry" in your offering envelope.

We encourage you to take part by enrolling your children, inviting others, and supporting these efforts through prayer and participation.

Registration is still ongoing for Junior Chef and Crafty Kids, and slots are still open. These programs will run from April 27-29.

More importantly, the opportunity before us is significant.

Let us not miss this moment to invest in and guide the next generation—not according to the spirit of the world, but according to the Spirit who is from God. ✠

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