

Weekly Study Guide

September 9 & 12

Daily Readings

Monday	Matthew 28:16-20	Tuesday	Matthew 5:9	Wednesday	Matthew 5:48
Thursday	Matthew 12:27	Friday	I Corinthians 10:31-11:1	Saturday	I Corinthians 4:14-17

My notes on this week's readings...

Group Discussion

Connect	<p>What do you think of as the biggest lessons you learned from your mother or father or some other important adult in your childhood?</p>
Learn	<p>Read Matthew 5:9 and Matthew 5:43-48.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">•First describe how these passages represent God. What things do they say about God’s character?•Next, remember that Jesus is teaching these lessons to his disciples (5:1-2). According to these teachings, what does it mean for Jesus’ disciples to be “children of God”?•Matthew 5:48 says to be “perfect” as our heavenly Father is perfect. That’s a tall order. But consider that the word translated as “perfect” in this verse describes a sense of completeness or fullness. Do you sense that Jesus might be calling you to grow toward greater fullness or completeness in some way? How? <p>Read 1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1. This is a summary of the apostle Paul’s teaching to some Christians who were worried about whether they could eat meat that had been offered as a sacrifice to a false god. Paul’s instruction to them was to make their own decision based on what would best serve their neighbors. He said that was the way of Christ that he himself followed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">•Has anybody in your life ever offered you a good example of what it looks like to follow the example of Christ? What was that like?•Who do you think you’re setting an example for, whether it’s intentional or not? What’s that experience like? <p>Consider the “Up-In-Out” triangle that we learned about in the message this week. This way of describing our relationships with God, each other, and the world will be a topic for the next few weeks. How would you describe the balance of relationships in your life? Does one side of the triangle feel the strongest? Does one side feel the weakest? (If you’d like to see it again, you can find this week’s message on the front page of www.flcwb.org, or you can review past sermons at www.flcwb.org/resources/sermons/.)</p>
Apply	<p>What did you learn this week that seemed most important for you? Do you sense that God might be calling you to some kind of action step in response?</p>
Pray	<p>Becoming a disciple of Jesus can involve hard work, but it’s not something we can do on our own. We depend on the power of God. In addition to any other prayer needs you might have in your group, pray for each other for the ways that God is growing you up in apprenticeship to Jesus.</p>