

# Weekly Study Guide

The Week of September 16, 2012

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## Daily Readings

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Monday	Mark 12:28-38	Tuesday	Luke 15:1-7	Wednesday	Luke 15:8-10
Thursday	Luke 4:1-13	Friday	Luke 6:12-19	Saturday	Luke 22:39-46

*My notes on this week's readings...*

# Group Discussion

Connect	<p>We are learning this week to know God in the Jesus way. If you asked a random person on the street what God is like (and if they were willing to answer you!), what do you think they would say?</p>
Learn	<p>Read Mark 12:28-34. Jesus summarized God's will for our lives into two categories: Love God and Love your neighbor.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•The man in the story asked Jesus for God's one, most important commandment. Jesus gave him two answers. Does this seem important to you? Why?</li><li>•In your experience, how are these things (loving God and loving neighbor) usually related?</li></ul> <p>Jesus told parables to explain to people how to understand God and God's work in the world. Read Luke 15:1-7.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•Why did Jesus tell this parable? (Review Luke 15:1-2 for help.)</li><li>•Brainstorm with each other. What kinds of things does this parable invite us to believe about God?</li><li>•If you told a parable about the character of God, would you have told it this way?</li><li>•Based on this whole story, how do you think Jesus means for his disciples to respond to this teaching?</li></ul> <p>This week's message emphasized our "Up," that is, our relationship with God. We learned that Jesus nurtured his relationship with the Father through knowing the Bible, praying, and obeying God's leading.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•What helps you read the Bible regularly? What makes it hard?</li><li>•What helps you cultivate times of prayer? What draws you away from prayer?</li><li>•What's the biggest help to following the prompting of God's Spirit? What's the biggest barrier?</li></ul>
Apply	<p>What's one thing that you think God might be asking you to do in order to grow in your relationship with him this week?</p>
Pray	<p>In your group, pray for each person for a deeply rooted relationship with God and a sure knowledge of his love and grace.</p>