

Weekly Study Guide

The Week of September 30, 2012

Daily Readings

Monday	Genesis 12:1-3	Tuesday	Acts 16:6-10	Wednesday	John 3:16-17
Thursday	Luke 6:12-19	Friday	Luke 9:1-6	Saturday	2 Corinthians 5:18-20

My notes on this week's readings...

Next Week in Worship

Next week's message: *The Water and The Word*

Next week's readings: Romans 6:1-11, Matthew 28:18-20

We've been learning about our lives as apprentice-disciples of Jesus in a set of relationships Up, In, and Out. But Jesus' Great Commission says some other specific things, including the command to "baptize and teach" others. Join us next week to learn about the meaning and power of Christian baptism.



www.flcwb.org • info@flcwb.org
4000 Linden Street • White Bear Lake, MN 55110 • 651.429.5349

Group Discussion

Connect

It seems to be a natural instinct for people to want to “make a difference” or doing something “bigger than themselves.” Do you agree that this is pretty universal? Why do you think this is?

Learn

We learned important things about our “out” this week. The first thing we learned is that God himself is very “outward.” He is committed to reaching and saving his lost world. **Read Genesis 12:1-3 and John 3:16-17.**

- These are both pretty famous passages. What do they have in common?
- What changes from Genesis 12 to John 3?
- Does it make sense to you to say that God’s own character is strongly “out”?

We also learned this week that out is a combination of service and witness. **Read Luke 6:12-19** and note also the teaching that comes right after this. **Read also Luke 9:1-6.**

- In your view, why do acts of practical service and blessing and words of witness both matter?
- It has been attributed to St. Francis of Assisi to say, “Preach the Gospel at all times. Use words when necessary.” What are the strengths and weaknesses of this way of describing “out”?
- If you were to tell somebody why it matters to you to be a disciple of Jesus, what kinds of things would you want to communicate?

The final main point of this week is that “out” is a lifestyle. God can use us for his purposes of blessing and witness wherever we are.

- **Read 2 Corinthians 5:20.** This verse describes Christian witness in the image of an ambassador. What does this suggest to you?
- **Read Matthew 9:9-13.** This story describes the disciple Matthew (sometimes also called Levi) gathering with his friends and coworkers and Jesus. How could our relationships with Jesus become a more natural part of our many other relationships?

Apply

We’ve been learning about the triangle of Up, In, and Out as a way to describe our lives in apprenticeship to Jesus. It’s hard to grow in every direction at once. What do you think is the most important next step for you as you grow in Christ?

Pray

Who is on your heart when you think of people in need of God’s blessing and/or a relationship with God? Pray for them in your group this week.