

# Weekly Study Guide

The Week of October 14, 2012

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## Daily Readings

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Monday	Matthew 28:16-20	Tuesday	Daniel 7:13-14	Wednesday	Matthew 4:1-11
Thursday	Matthew 7:28-29	Friday	Matthew 1:18-23	Saturday	Revelation 21:1-5

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

## Next Week in Worship

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**Next week's message:** *The Journey Starts at Home*

**Next week's readings:** Deuteronomy 6:1-9; Matthew 19:13-15

Next week's message will be the first in a new series called *Trail Markers*, focusing on lessons learned and left for us by Christians of the past that help keep us on the path with Christ now. Next week we'll learn from the example of the Lutheran Reformers who knew the Biblical truth that faith in Christ is taught powerfully through generations of families.



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# Group Discussion

Connect	<p>What does authority look like to you? Is it different from power?</p>
Learn	<p>We learned earlier in the <i>Apprenticed</i> series that Jesus' Great Commission (Matthew 28:16-20) is the last of 5 climactic "mountaintop" scenes in Jesus' life in the Gospel of Matthew. The first of these scenes was during Jesus' temptation (Matthew 4:1-11, see especially 4:8). In that scene, the devil promised to give Jesus rulership of all the kingdoms of the world. Then, as part of the Great Commission, Jesus said, "All authority in heaven and earth has been given to me."</p> <p><b>Read Matthew 4:8-11</b> and <b>Matthew 28:16-18</b> to compare these stories.</p> <p>Partly these stories show a contrast in how Jesus' could have received authority.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What path to authority is offered in Matthew 4:8-9?</li><li>• In the story that leads up to Matthew 28, Jesus earned authority instead by the way of the cross. What do you think is important about this difference?</li></ul> <p>These two stories also help us understand what kind of authority Jesus has.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• If Jesus had accepted the devil's offer in Matthew 4:8-9, what would he have gotten to do with "all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor"?</li><li>• Do you think the authority Jesus has in Matthew 28 would be less than this? So what kind of authority does Jesus have in the world? How do you think he exercises it?</li></ul> <p>The Great Commission ends with Jesus' promise to be with us always, to the very end of the age. Jesus' life also started with a promise that Jesus would be called Immanuel, which means "God with us." <b>Read Matthew 1:18-23.</b> These promises mean that God is not absent from us. They also mean that God is not equally present everywhere; he promises to be with us particularly <i>in Jesus</i>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• When or how is it important to you to remember that God is not absent?</li><li>• When or how is it important to remember that God is present particularly in Jesus?</li></ul>
Apply	<p>Pick a question to focus on this week:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Jesus' authority came on the road of the cross. In practical terms, how might you earn the authority of love and sacrifice among the people in your life? If and when you have this authority, what do you think God wants you to do with it?</li><li>• Jesus' promise to be with us is also a promise to be present in the world through us. In practical terms, how can you cooperate with God so that people experience you as the presence of Christ among them?</li></ul>
Pray	<p>Think of an area of your life or our world in general that especially needs to come under the authority of Christ. Pray "your kingdom come" about that need.</p>