

# Weekly Study Guide

The Week of December 15, 2013

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## Daily Readings

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Monday	Luke 15	Tuesday	Luke 16	Wednesday	Luke 17
Thursday	Luke 18	Friday	Luke 19	Saturday	Luke 20

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

## Next Week in Worship

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**Next week:** Christmas Concerts of Worship

Join us next week for a beautiful celebration of Christmas through music, scripture, and song. We take this special occasion to join together in worship in the sanctuary at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m.

first lutheran church

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# Group Discussion

Connect	<p>What are some traditions or experiences that have helped your family celebrate the arrival of Jesus' Kingdom during the Advent season?</p>
Learn	<p>Throughout the gospel of Luke, Jesus announces, teaches, and demonstrates that God's long-awaited Kingdom is arriving through His life. He invited everyone to trust God as King, yet the announcement of God's Kingdom caused questions and controversy for many He encountered.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•Take turns reading Luke 23:1-12 and John 18:28-37 out loud together as a group.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•What strikes you most about the curiosity and confusion leaders from Jesus' day showed about the claim that Jesus is King of the Jews? How was Jesus' Kingdom different than the kingdoms they were leading?</li><li>•What do you think Jesus meant when He said to Pilate "My Kingdom is not from this world"? What are some ways this idea has been misunderstood? How does the line from the Lord's prayer, "your kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven" help us understand what Jesus' meant?</li></ul></li></ul> <p>The announcement of Jesus' Kingdom not only confused the leaders of Jesus' time, but also His closest followers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•Read Luke 21:24-29 and discuss—How did Jesus' vision of His Kingdom challenge and overturn Jesus' disciples vision of what it meant for them to serve him as King?</li><li>•Read Luke 7:18-23: Why do you think John the Baptist questioned and wondered about who Jesus was? How does suffering and disappointment cause us to question God is really King?</li></ul> <p>After Jesus' resurrection, Jesus path to the cross and resurrection brought clarity confusion to His followers that God is in charge even when it doesn't look like it.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•Read Philippians 2:5-11: What does this passage teach us about how God brought victory over sin, evil, and death through Jesus? How does Jesus' return give you hope in the midst of the difficulties of this world?</li><li>•How does Jesus' path give us clarity of God wants us to trust Him and treat one another during this in between time of waiting for God's Kingdom to fully arrive?</li></ul>
Apply	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•As you think back through this year, what is a word, phrase, or story from your experience that represents a praise you have for Jesus the King?</li><li>•What is a word or phrase that represents a longing, or difficulty, in your life that you would like to trust Jesus more with?</li></ul>
Pray	<p>Spend some time praying in celebration and thanksgiving for Jesus as the King of your life and what He has done in and through your group this year. Spend some time interceding for one another about the longing and difficulties you want to trust Jesus more with. Spend some time praying for Jesus' Kingdom to expand through our church and in our world.</p>