

Weekly Study Guide

The week of January 12, 2014

Daily Readings

Monday	John 15:1-8	Tuesday	John 15:9-17	Wednesday	1 Corinthians 9:24-27
Thursday	Hebrews 12:1-4	Friday	Matthew 20:1-16	Saturday	Mark 12:1-12

My notes on this week's readings...

Next Week in Worship

Next week's message: *Growing and Bearing Fruit*

Next week's readings: John 15:1-8

We are learning from Jesus how to live a truly fruitful life in relationship with God. Join us next week as we learn about the result of "abiding" in the vine and pruning our branches: growing and bearing fruit as a disciple of Jesus.

first lutheran church

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Group Discussion

Connect

Have you ever had too much of a good thing?

Learn

Remember that we are learning from Jesus about a truly fruitful life in relationship with God. Read **John 15:1-17** aloud again this week.

- What stands out to you this week?
- What are your first reactions to what Jesus says about pruning in the first part of the reading?

Pruning is an important part of gardening.

- If you have any gardeners in your group, what do you know about pruning plants and vines?
- If your group has access to a computer, you can find an educational video about pruning vines at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RNPFV7lgAvE>.
- Do you see any parallels between pruning plants and “pruning” in our lives?

Read **John 15:1-4** again to focus on what Jesus says about pruning. There is a word play in the original Greek version of John. The word for for “pruning” in v. 2 is almost the same as the word for “clean” in v. 3. So pruning isn’t just cutting for no reason, it’s more like a “cutting clean.”

- Jesus tells his disciples, “you are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you.” Do you think the word of Jesus has done any pruning or “cleaning up” in your life?

Think about the pruning that God might still want to do in your life and how you can cooperate with Him.

- Is there any pruning that can be done immediately?
- Is there any pruning that will take some time but needs to be done when you can?

Apply

What steps of pruning will you cooperate with God to take this week?

Pray

Pray together as a group for God’s guidance in knowing what to nourish in your life and what to prune.