

Weekly Study Guide

The week of April 27 2014

Daily Readings

Monday	Luke 15:1-7	Tuesday	Luke 15:8-10	Wednesday	Luke 15:11-32
Thursday	1 John 4:13-21	Friday	Matthew 9:9-13	Saturday	Luke 19:1-10

My notes on this week's readings...

Next Week in Worship

Next week's message: *Jesus Makes Us Family & Deep Roots Make Good Fruit*

Next week's readings: Mark 3:31-35; Ephesians 3:14-21

We learned this week why we do what we do, because of the heart of the God who runs after all his lost children. In next week's message we'll focus on the first two of our church's core values: Jesus Makes Us Family and Deep Roots Make Good Fruit. Please join us next week as we learn about the power of belonging in God's family and the power of God's Spirit at work in us.

first lutheran church

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Group Discussion

Connect	Have you ever lost anything that was really valuable or important to you? Did you find it again?
Understanding	<p>Read Luke 15:1-32 out loud together as a group. What's the first thing that grips you or stands out to you about this passage?</p> <p>Imagine the scene in vv. 1-2 that starts this whole episode. How do you imagine it? (If you'd like to see another similar scene, read Matthew 9:9-13.) What makes Jesus tell these three stories?</p> <p>What do the three stories in this chapter have in common with each other? What do these things mean?</p> <p>Are there any important differences among these stories? Do you think Jesus was building up as he went along?</p>
Application	<p>Can you identify with any of the characters or objects in these stories? Maybe that which was lost? Maybe the one who searched? Maybe the ones who were invited to rejoice?</p> <p>Jesus says there is much rejoicing in heaven whenever someone turns or returns to God. Can you imagine this being true of you? How does it make you feel to think of this for yourself and for others?</p> <p>Jesus told these stories to explain why he was scandalously keeping company with the wrong sort of people. Do you think churches today have really grasped his teaching and example? Do you think our church has?</p> <p>What do you think God might be saying to you or us through this passage? What should the next steps of response be?</p>
Prayer	<p>In your prayers today, please pray today for those who are far from God to learn that they are precious to their heavenly father.</p> <p>Please pray for those who know God to share God's joy and to share the heart of the Father for all his children.</p> <p>Please pray for God to share his heart with First Lutheran and to make us the people he wants us to be.</p>