

Weekly Study Guide

The week of May 4, 2014

Daily Readings

Monday	Mark 3:20-35	Tuesday	Mark 2:13-17	Wednesday	John 19:25-27
Thursday	Ephesians 3:14-21	Friday	John 15:1-8	Saturday	2 Corinthians 4:16-18

My notes on this week's readings...

Next Week in Worship

Next week's message: *Love Pours Out & We Invite Everyone To Take Their First and Next Steps with Jesus*

Next week's readings: Matthew 16:24-26 and John 4:1-30

We learned this week about 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 how Jesus' love turns his family outward to love others and to invite them into our lifelong journey with him.

first lutheran church

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Group Discussion

Connect	<p>Are there some places where you've felt a real sense of belonging? What was it like?</p>
Understanding	<p>Read Mark 3:31-35. (You might also read 3:20-30 if you'd like to know more of the context.) What strikes you most about this event?</p> <p>How do you think this would have sounded to Jesus' family? How do you think it would have sounded to the other people with him?</p> <p>Last week we learned about one example (in Luke 15:1-2) of Jesus' commitment to build family around meals. Why do you think eating together is a powerful expression of community?</p> <p>Read Ephesians 3:14-21 out loud together. (It's pretty thick, you might want to read it twice!) What seems to you to be the main topic(s) of this prayer?</p> <p>This prayer prays for strength and power for Christians. How would you describe that strength and power? Where does it come from? What does it do?</p>
Application	<p>Do you think followers of Jesus act like family today?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• When or how do we do this best?• How do we still need to grow in this value? <p>One of our church family's particular commitments is to be an <i>intergenerational Christian family</i>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• How have you experienced this as a blessing or a challenge or both?• How do you think God might be challenging you as an individual or us as a church family to grow because of this commitment? <p>Reflecting on the reading from Ephesians 3, how much does that prayer reflect your reality? Do you feel strengthened in your inner being? Do you have a sense of being rooted and established in love?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What helps cultivate this experience of strength and rootedness for you?• How might your group be able to support one another's "deep roots."
Pray	<p>Please pray today for a strong and healthy practice of family in our church - and also for strength in the families that are a part of our church.</p> <p>Please pray for one another that God will "strengthen you with power through His Spirit in your inner being" and that you will be "rooted and established in love...to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ."</p> <p>Please pray for our church family to grow into the people God wants us to be.</p>