

Weekly Study Guide

The week of May 18, 2014

Daily Readings

Monday	Luke 3:1-20	Tuesday	Mark 1:14-15	Wednesday	Luke 4:14-21
Thursday	Matthew 13:24-43	Friday	Matthew 13:44-52	Saturday	Colossians 3:12-17

My notes on this week's readings...

Next Week in Worship

Next week's message:

First Lutheran welcomes Minnesota Adult and Teen Challenge back to worship with us next week. "Teen Challenge" is a recovery ministry designed to help people overcome alcohol and drug addiction. The Teen Challenge choirs will help lead us in worship next week and share their stories of God's salvation and healing.

first lutheran church

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Group Discussion

Connect	<p>Can you think of a time when you have felt especially connected to God when you were not at a church?</p>
Understanding	<p>In the message this week we learned about the Kingdom of God and Jesus' mission to bring and announce this Kingdom. John the Baptizer introduced the ministry of Jesus and this Kingdom message. Read Luke 3:7-18. What are the first things that stand out to you about this passage?</p> <p>Now look especially at the questions and answers vv. 10-14. People wanted to know what they should do in view of God's Kingdom. What did John tell them? What are the main ideas here?</p> <p>Read Colossians 3:12-17. The last verse summarizes this reading by instructing us to do <i>everything, not just religious things or church things, in the name of Jesus. What's your first reaction to this?</i></p> <p>Now go back and read the list of virtues in vv. 12-14. How would you describe the kind of "Kingdom life" pictured here?</p> <p>Read vv. 15-17. Verse 16 especially seems to describe a time when Christians are gathered together for worship and learning. What connection do you see between the first half and the second half of this passage?</p>
Application	<p>Remember the questions that people asked John in Luke 3. Most of them were tied to a job or profession. What are some things that it might mean for you to live as a citizen or agent of the Kingdom of God in your work life?</p> <p>Consider the character of life described in Colossians 3. We could learn from the rest of that chapter that the Apostle Paul meant for those virtues to be lived out in one's circle of family, friends, and associates. What are some ways you might want to grow as a citizen or agent of God's Kingdom in one or more of your personal relationships?</p> <p>Where do you feel the biggest gaps in your 3-165 Christian life? Where do you have the hardest time making connections between what happens "at church" and what happens in the rest of your life? What might you need to help you grow as a disciple of Jesus in this area of your life?</p>
Pray	<p>Pray today for God to help you imagine the ways of the Kingdom of God in your everyday life.</p> <p>Above all else, Jesus taught his disciples to pray for the Kingdom of God. You could pray Jesus' prayer in Matthew 6:9-13 as part of your prayers together this week.</p>