

# Weekly Study Guide

The week of September 7, 2014

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## Daily Readings

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Monday	Matthew 4:12-17	Tuesday	Matthew 4:18-22	Wednesday	Matthew 4:23-25
Thursday	Exodus 19:1-7	Friday	1 Peter 2:9-11	Saturday	John 13:31-35

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

## Next Week in Worship

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**Next week's message:** *Expand Our Invitation to Christ*

**Next week's readings:** John 1:35-50

Jesus invited people to "come and see" what he was doing. Once they had seen, they invited others to come and see Jesus for themselves. As we become a people, like Jesus, reflecting the heart of God, we too will invite others to come and see. Join us next week to learn more about what God is doing in our church to expand our invitation to Christ.

first lutheran church

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# Group Discussion

Connect

Many of you are in new Community Groups or groups that took some time off during the summer. What was your favorite thing you did this summer?

Learn

Read Matthew 4:18-20. When Jesus invited these fishermen to follow him, he was already reflecting God's heart to reach people and bring them to himself. If you're part of a community group, reading the Bible, chances are you've encountered some people along the way who have reflected God to you somehow. Can you think of anyone like that? What is/was that experience like?

Read Exodus 19:3-6. When God rescued ancient Israel from Egypt, he made them into a people that would make him known to the whole world. He said they would be a "kingdom of priests," because "priests" are really just people who represent God to the rest of the world.

- What do you think of when you hear the word "priest"? Do you think that's similar to or different from what God meant here?
- Try to imagine a whole community of people living in God's love and God's ways. What do you think that would be like for people who saw it from the outside?

After Jesus came, some of the first Christians realized that this idea of being "priests" applied to them now too - whether they were Israelites or not. Read 1 Peter 2:9-10. As you can see, this is a message that had to be repeated. What makes this hard to grasp? What things work against us realizing that we are all "priests" of God?

Apply

Take a moment to think about what reflection of God other people see in your life. (Some of this will be encouraging. Some will, of course, be challenging!) Is there any one thing in particular that you'd like to do differently to grow in reflecting the heart of the Father?

In the passages we read, the reflection of God was usually seen in a community of people more than in an individual. How is that similar to or different from your experience, or how you think of it? How might your group or family, or our church family, embrace this calling together?

Pray

In this week's message we received a prayer to pray this week. Pray together with your group, "Jesus, help me to know and show me the heart of the Father."