

Weekly Study Guide

The week of September 28, 2014

Daily Readings

Monday	Matthew 16:13-20	Tuesday	Matthew 16:21-28	Wednesday	Luke 10:1-12
Thursday	Luke 10:13-24	Friday	Numbers 11:26-30	Saturday	Matthew 4:18-22

My notes on this week's readings...

Next Week in Worship

Next week's message: *Ears that Hear*

Next week's readings: Matthew 13:1-23

Jesus worked hard to help his disciples picture the Kingdom of God. He told them story after story to reshape their "kingdom imagination." Join us next week for the start of a new series called *Imagine This*, where we'll learn from the words of Jesus to see God's work in our world with his eyes.

first lutheran church

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Group Discussion

Connect

It's late September in Minnesota. What's your favorite season of the year? Why?

Learn

Read Matthew 16:13-18. In the message this week, we learned to read "church" in v. 18 as the movement and community of disciples Jesus built against the powers of darkness.

- What things do people usually mean when they say the word "church"?
- What positive and negative associations have become attached to that word in our culture?
- If you were going to pick a word (other than church) to describe the sort of thing that Jesus was starting, what word(s) do you think would be best?

Read Luke 10:1-2. Jesus sends out some of his disciples to carry on his work in more places than he could reach personally. In this sending, he instructs them to pray for God to send even more people like them.

- Do you find this "sending" to be at all striking? Did you think Jesus would have this many people who were ready to go out and do his work on their own?
- Jesus tells them to pray for "laborers," not for the harvest. There's no shortage of harvest. There's a shortage of laborers. Why do you think that's true?

Read Numbers 11:26-30. This is a strange, old story about the ancient Israelite leader named Moses. In these verses we see Moses' desire for God's Spirit to lead and speak through all God's people, not just public leaders like him.

- Why do you think the young man in v. 27 ran to tell Moses about Eldad and Medad?
- What do you think we can learn about ministry from this story?
- If God speaks and works through all his people, not just special leaders, what do you think is the role of recognized leaders?

Apply

- Do you sense that God might be nudging you toward a new step of service or influence somehow? Do you see any next steps of action or preparation you might want to take?
- Sometimes we are empowered when other people see the potential in us. Is there anyone in your circles that you think God could use in a new way? Might you be in a position to encourage them?

Pray

In Luke 10, Jesus told his followers to pray for God to send out "laborers" for the harvest. Pray today for God to empower all of us in to serve and represent Him in our worlds.