

# Weekly Study Guide

January 8, 2017

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Desire to ask Pastor Steve a question about today's message? Contact him at 651.429.5349 x215 or [sturnbull@flcwb.org](mailto:sturnbull@flcwb.org).

## Daily Readings

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### Monday

Psalms 42-46

### Thursday

Psalms 57-61

### Tuesday

Psalms 47-51

### Friday

Psalms 62-67

### Wednesday

Psalms 52-56

### Saturday

Psalms 68-72

*Regular habits of private Bible reading strengthen our relationship with God and teach us how to follow Jesus. In addition to the thematic exercise above, you can use this guide each week to lead you through relevant sections of the Bible.*

# Group Discussion Guide

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## CONNECT

Tell your group about your favorite moment over Christmas break. What's one thing you're looking forward to in 2017?

## LEARN AND APPLY

Many of us probably have at least some past experiences of sharing the deep moments of life with other people.

- Has anyone ever let you in on a personal joy or personal struggle they were experiencing? What was that like?
- When was a time you took a risk to share a joy or struggle with someone else? How did that experience go? Did it make you more or less likely to do that again?

Even as he was dying, Jesus envisioned and directed a family-like relationship between his own mother and one of his followers. **Read John 19:25-27** in your group. A couple of months after Jesus' death, resurrection, and ascension to heaven, the early Christian community was learning how to embrace this truth. **Read Acts 6:1-7** to see how they learned, by trial and error, to care for the widows in their community.

- Stories like these form the foundation of our value that "Jesus makes us family." Why might people need to be family together in addition to our biological families?
- Where or how have you seen this value lived out successfully in your group or in our church family?
- What barriers prevent us from doing this in our groups and church family? How can these barriers be overcome?

In his letters to the churches in Galatia and Rome, the early church leader Paul wrote to the Christians there, "Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ (Galatians 6:2)," and "Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn (Romans 12:15)."

- What's going on in your relationships, whether you are married or single, that you can celebrate with your group ("rejoice with those who rejoice")?
- What challenges are you facing in your relationships right now, whether you are married or single? Share with the group what you'd like prayer for ("carry each other's burdens").

## PRAY

- Give joys and burdens to the Lord by praying for the person on your left. You can simply say "God, thank you for the blessings in \_\_\_\_'s life and please help him/her with \_\_\_\_."
- Please also pray for anyone else you know who may feel isolated.
- Pray for God to make our groups and church family into an authentic community of grace.