

Weekly Study Guide

The Week of November 3, 2013

Daily Readings

Monday	Matthew 7:1-6	Tuesday	2 Samuel 12:1-13	Wednesday	Galatians 6:1-5
Thursday	Ephesians 4:11-16	Friday	Ephesians 4:17-32	Saturday	Matthew 18:15-20, 21-35

My notes on this week's readings...

Next Week in Worship

Next week's message: *Ask, Seek, Knock*

Next week's readings: Matthew 7:7-12

Join us as we continue to explore how we can live into Jesus' vision of the Good Life in the Kingdom of God. Next week, we will see how we can seek and depend on God's power in our lives as Jesus shows us that God hears the cries of his people for help and desires to give good gifts to those who ask him.



www.flcwb.org • info@flcwb.org

4000 Linden Street • White Bear Lake, MN 55110 • 651.429.5349

Group Discussion

Connect

Why do you think there is such a perception of Christians being judgmental in our popular culture? Do you think this perception is fair? Why or why not?

Learn

Read Matthew 7:1-5. Jesus begins this passage by warning us not to judge each other and then gives a humorous image to help see the problem of judgment in our own lives.

- Try acting out Jesus' analogy: Find a large object in the room and see how easy it is to point out a speck in your neighbor's eye with an object protruding from your own.
- How does humor help to disarm our defensiveness and help us to see ourselves with humility? Why do you think we are so prone to judge and find the fault in others?
- How does judging others create distance in relationships and unsafe environments for people to grow spiritually? How have you experienced this in your life?

At the same time, Jesus acknowledges that we all have "specks" (sin, painful things, bad habits and ways of thinking) in our eyes that we can help remove so that we can see the world more through the love of Christ.

- How does this image help us to see the truth of how vulnerability, trust, and compassion are essential for growing together in the way of Jesus as a community?
- Spend some time reading a few of these passages out loud together and discuss how Jesus' image helps you understand what it means to grow spiritually together as a Christian community. (Galatians 6:1-5, James 5:16, Hebrews 10:23-5, Ephesians 4:14-16)
- In the last passage, Paul says that one way we grow in maturity through speaking the truth in love with each other. When you have a conflict or issue with someone, what is most difficult for you: 1) Speaking at all about it, 2) Speaking with love about the issue, or 3) Speaking with truth and honest about the issue. What is difficult about this for you?
- In your experience, how has God used Christian community to remove specks from your eyes?

Apply

Discuss:

1. As a group. How can our group grow as a place of grace, trust, and transformation together?
2. Personally. How is God speaking to you through the image of the plank and speck?

Pray

Spend some time praying for each other that we will see others with the love of Christ and be moved by compassion, grace, and truth in our relationships. Spend some time praying for our church family—that we could be a place of grace and transformation in the Spirit of Jesus.