

# Weekly Study Guide

The week of December 8, 2013

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## Daily Readings

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Monday	Luke 9	Tuesday	Luke 10	Wednesday	Luke 11
Thursday	Luke 12	Friday	Luke 13	Saturday	Luke 14

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

## Next Week in Worship

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**Next week's message:** *Who is this King?*

**Next week's readings:** Luke 23:1-12

The story of Jesus' life and the revelation of his identity builds toward a surprising climax. Jesus' goodness and his Lordship and finally shown to us in his death, and God vindicates Jesus in his resurrection. Join us next week as we learn the deep and surprising truth of Jesus from the story of his suffering and death.



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# Group Discussion

## Connect

Have you ever seen any portraits of Jesus? Do you have any favorites? Why do you like them?

## Learn

Read **Luke 13:10-17** and **Luke 14:1-4**. These examples are typical of the conflicts that Jesus often had with the Pharisees.

- Assume for a moment that the Pharisees are trying to honor God with their lives and behaviors in general and specifically in their commitment to obey God by refraining from doing any work on the Sabbath. Brainstorm with your group for a moment. What can we know about their imagination of God from these examples?
- Jesus obviously sees things differently. Do a little brainstorming now about Jesus' picture of God. What do Jesus' actions tell us about what he thought was important to God?
- Now think about yourself. What people or experiences have shaped your picture of God? Have you been influenced by pictures that are more like the Pharisees or more like Jesus?

Read the stories that Jesus told in Luke 14:15-24 and Luke 15:3-32. In the previous question, you thought about Jesus' picture of God based on his actions. Now we get to read some of Jesus' own answers to the Pharisees.

- Why do you think Jesus responded to criticism by telling stories?
- Do these stories add anything to what you already thought of in the first set of questions?

When we read the stories of Jesus' life in the Gospels, there are two questions that are always good to ask: "What does this tell me about Jesus?" and "What does this tell me about following Jesus?"

- In your own words, what do these stories tell you about Jesus?
- In your own words, what do these stories tell you about following Jesus?

## Apply

In this week's message we learned about the importance of getting to know the story (and stories) of Jesus' life. As a group, share the things that have helped you read the Bible consistently in the past. Can you make a plan for reading (or listening to) the Gospel of Luke during this time leading up to Christmas? (Don't forget the Advent devotional available with this series.)

## Pray

In your prayers this week, ask God to give you insight to understand how you've formed your imagination of Him. And ask God to help you see Him as He has been revealed in Jesus.