

Weekly Study Guide

The Week of January 19, 2014

Daily Readings

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| Monday | John 15:1-4 | Tuesday | John 15:5-8 | Wednesday | John 15:9-17 |
| Thursday | Matthew 7:15-20 | Friday | Galatians 5:19-25 | Saturday | Ephesians 5:8-11 |

My notes on this week's readings...

Next Week in Worship

We have a planned special celebration for the 125th anniversary of First Lutheran Church next week. Please note our change in schedule, with worship services planned at 9 and 11 a.m.

first lutheran church

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Group Discussion

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| Connect | Have you ever grown something really fruitful? What was it? |
| Learn | <p>This is the last week of our series on John 15. We have been learning about “abiding”/“remaining” in the Vine and about “pruning.” Have someone in your group read John 15:1-17 aloud again this week. Listen especially for what Jesus says about bearing “fruit.”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What grabs your attention about this passage this week?• What stands out to you in Jesus’ teaching about bearing fruit. <p>Bearing fruit is an image, of course. None of us actually grow fruit, except perhaps in our yards or gardens. To understand what kind of “fruit” Jesus is talking about, let’s first learn what we can from this passage alone.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Read vv. 8-17 again. Make a list of what else Jesus says that could help us understand what he’s hoping for in our lives.• How would you describe what Jesus means by “bearing fruit” as his disciples? <p>There are other New Testament passages that describe the Christian life in terms similar to bearing fruit. Read Galatians 5:22-25, Ephesians 5:8-11, and Hebrews 12:11 for a few examples.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What does this kind of image suggest to you about Christian life and growth?• Do you think there’s any particular fruit of Christian discipleship that God wants you to focus on in your life? |
| Apply | What sort of growth or fruitfulness do you think God is prompting you toward? What next steps will you take in that direction? |
| Pray | Share your prayer requests with each other, including praying for the ways you sense God prompting you to grow. You might also choose to pray the Lord’s Prayer together. (You can find words for the Lord’s Prayer in Matthew 6:9-13.) |