

Weekly Study Guide

The week of February 23, 2014

Daily Readings

Monday	John 17:20-26	Tuesday	1 John 4:7-10	Wednesday	1 John 3:1-3
Thursday	Numbers 14:18-20	Friday	Psalm 5:1-8	Saturday	Psalm 33:21-22

My notes on this week's readings...

Next Week in Worship

Next week's message: Mission of Hope Sunday; Guest Speaker, President Brad Johnson

Next week's readings: Isaiah 12:2-4, John 7:37-39

Last year, First Lutheran began to develop a partnership with a village in Haiti called Source Matelas, which means "water source." In this village, a spring fed river delivers fresh water to the people. We know that Jesus is the source of living water for our lives, now and forever, and from his love, wonderful things are springing forth and overflowing through our partnership with Mission of Hope! Come and hear what God is doing in Haiti!

first lutheran church

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Group Discussion

Connect	<p>Have you ever had a moment where you felt like your heart was going to burst because of the love you were feeling for someone else? What was it that made that person 'beloved' do you?</p>
Learn	<p>Read John 17:22-26. Jesus shows us in these verses that the reason he came was because he wants us to live as 'the beloved ones' of God, through him.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What does it mean to you that Jesus wants you to live in God's love?• What keeps us from living into who we are as God's beloved ones? <p>Shame has been something people have struggled with since the fall in the Garden of Eden. Shame is connected to the fear that one is somehow 'wrong' and thus unloved or unlovable. Guilt is tied to an event. We did something we know is wrong. Forgiveness and repentance can set us back on track. Shame, however, is harder to fight. Shame keeps us from feeling that we can be loved by God— and only when we know that we ARE loved by God, even in our mess, can we begin to find real grace to live the life that God desires for us!</p> <p>Read Luke 22: 31-34. In this passage, on the night Jesus will be arrested he takes a moment to warn Simon Peter about something he knows will take place. As you read these words, Jesus knows Peter will fail at one thing by the end of the night. What is it?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Do you believe Jesus loves Peter as he says this?• Jesus is praying for Peter that something else will not fail. Why is this prayer so important to Jesus? <p>Read John 21: 15-17. How in this passage was Jesus showing Peter he was still the beloved?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• How does Jesus deal with Peter's guilt here?• How does he deal with the enemy of shame? <p>Read 2 Corinthians 12: 9 and 1 John 4:15-19. What does it mean to you that God's grace is 'sufficient' for you?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• How does perfect love drive out fear?• How does the work of Jesus contradict that fear?
Apply	<p>The world constantly will try to get you to believe that you are not 'enough' (usually so they can get you to run after their goods and services). This week, if you find yourself thinking that you are not 'enough' for some reason, send up a prayer thanking Jesus that you are his "beloved" and "in him, I am enough."</p>
Pray	<p>In this world that uses shame as a weapon, youth tend to be particularly vulnerable to the lies that tear them down. This week, please pray intentionally for protection over the youth and kids of our church, that they would hear and know that they are deeply loved by God, and that his grace is sufficient for them.</p>