

Weekly Study Guide

The week of March 16, 2014

Daily Readings

Monday	Numbers 13:1-16	Tuesday	Numbers 13:17-25	Wednesday	Numbers 13:26-33
Thursday	Matthew 9:18-26	Friday	Mark 1:9-11	Saturday	Mark 15:33-39

My notes on this week's readings...

Next Week in Worship

Next week's message: *Bondage to Freedom*

Next week's readings: Romans 6

The cross of Jesus forgives the guilt of sin and heals the shame of sin. It also sets us free from the power of sin. Join us next week as we learn how our sharing in the death and resurrection of Jesus moves us from bondage to freedom.

first lutheran church

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Group Discussion

Connect

It's almost spring, right? What are you looking forward to most when the weather warms up?

Learn

When the Israelites explored the land of Canaan in the Old Testament, they encountered some significant challenges and had to fight against shame. Read **Numbers 13:1-3, 26-33**.

- What did the Israelites think of themselves?
- What did that do to their view of the challenges they faced?
- What did that do to their view of God's power or ability to work in them?
- What do you think would have helped the Israelites in this situation?

Jesus lived in a culture that understood shame and honor better than we usually do. His life and death can bring grace for our shame. Read **Matthew 9:20-22**.

- Do you think this woman experienced any shame as a result of her condition?
- How did Jesus see her? Do you think his address to her as "daughter" is important?
- In many translations, the passage says that the woman was "made well." This is the same word elsewhere translated as "saved." What does this passage illustrate about the breadth of Christian salvation?
- How do you think people today need to experience this same kind of thing from Jesus?

Jesus called a wounded woman "daughter." In his own lifetime, he was recognized as God's "son" at climactic moments. Read **Mark 1:9-11** and **Mark 15:33-39**.

- Why might it be important that Jesus heard these words at his baptism at the beginning of his ministry?
- After his baptism, Jesus was tested by Satan who said, "If you are the Son of God..." Is your identity as a child of God ever tested?
- Death by crucifixion was a deeply shameful execution. Jesus endured the shame of our lives to give us his identity. What threats of shame to your identity as a child of God can you give to Jesus to receive instead the honor of God's family?

Apply

Is there anything in your life undermining your identity as a child of God? Can you share it with a friend or with your group, so that they can pray for you and stand with you?

Pray

Shame thrives in isolation. Empathy is fatal to shame. Pray today that God would tear down the walls between us so that we can live together as children of God, receiving God's honor and victory over our shame.