

Weekly Study Guide

The week of April 13, 2014

Daily Readings

Monday	Matthew 9:9-13	Tuesday	Matthew 10:1-3	Wednesday	Acts 1:12-26
Thursday	John 15:1-17	Friday	John 15:18-27	Saturday	Matthew 11:18-19

My notes on this week's readings...

Next Week in Worship

Next Sunday is Resurrection Sunday, the celebration of the Day that changed the world forever. All through this series we've learned how God works through the cross of Christ to move us from where he finds us to where he wants to take us. Next week we celebrate that Jesus moved first! He moved off the cross, out of the tomb, and back to life. Join us next week to celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus and the victory of God over death itself.

first lutheran church

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Group Discussion

Connect	Have you ever become friends with someone you didn't like at first? What happened?
Learn	<p>Read Matthew 9:9 and 10:2-4. Jesus called Matthew (elsewhere also known as "Levi") to follow him and share in God's Kingdom. Matthew collected taxes on behalf of the Roman approved government and would have been despised by most of his people as a traitor or a "collaborator." Among Jesus' 12 closest disciples was also Simon the Zealot. Zealots were particularly passionate, even violent, Rome-haters and tax-haters. They wanted to start an armed rebellion to overthrow the hated Romans.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What can we learn about Jesus by knowing that he called both Matthew and Simon? Why would someone do that? How could someone do that?• What is implied about Matthew and Simon's decisions to say "yes" to Jesus' invitation?• Who do you think might be the "Matthews" and "Simons" in Jesus' family today? <p>Read John 15:12-17.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Jesus uses a variety of words to describe or identify the people he called to follow him. Can you think of any of those terms?• In this passage Jesus says that they are "friends." What does that term tell you?• According to Jesus, what does this kind of friend do. (Hint: there are three answers in verses 13, 14, and 15.)
Apply	What do you think God wants you to hear about friendship with Jesus? Are there any next steps for you to take in response to that?
Pray	Read Matthew 11:19 to set up your prayer time today. Many people in the world today think of Christians more for hostility than friendship. Pray about this problem with your group.