

Weekly Study Guide

The week of May 11, 2014

Daily Readings

Monday	Mark 6:1-13	Tuesday	Mark 6:30-46	Wednesday	Mark 12:28-34
Thursday	Luke 9:23-25	Friday	John 4:1-26	Saturday	John 4:27-42

My notes on this week's readings...

Next Week in Worship

Next week's message: 3-165

Next week's reading: John 20:19-22

Next week is the last week of our Heart of the Father series exploring the core values of our church community. On average, most of us might spend about 3 hours a week "at church." That leaves us 165 hours each week to "be the church," following Jesus in the rest of our lives. Join us next Sunday as we conclude this series and sharpen our vision for seeing and following Jesus in our home lives, work lives, and social lives.

first lutheran church

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Group Discussion

Connect Have you ever received any significant invitations in your life? What was that like?

Understanding *Love Pours Out.* Read **Mark 6:30-46** for an example of this in Jesus life. Would you say that Jesus practiced love for the people in this story? What kinds of things did he “pour out?”

How do you see Jesus balancing the need for himself and his disciples to be “filled up” with the commitment to “pour out” for the sake of others?

Read **Mark 12:28-34**. What one word does Jesus use to summarize both sides of his great commandment?

We invite everyone to take their first and next steps with Jesus. Read **John 4:1-42**. What are the first things that strike you about this story?

The woman’s experience with Jesus seems to have many sides or layers. What different thoughts or feelings do you think she experienced in that conversation?

How would you describe her invitation in verses 28-30?

Read **Matthew 4:18-22 and 20:20-28**. Based on these stories, does it seem to you that followers of Jesus have both *first and next steps to take*?

Application What is the connection in your life between being filled up and pouring out? Or, to put it another way, what fills you up so you can pour out?

Does pouring out ever fill you up?

Where do you think God might be prompting you to pour out love for others?

Can you think of a time when someone has invited you to first or next steps with Jesus?

If your life story has been blessed by someone’s invitation to you, how do you imagine you might become an inviter for someone else?

Pray Take a little time in prayer together as a group, and pray for God’s Spirit to fill your hearts.

Please pray for our church family to grow in outward flowing love.

Give thanks in prayer today for those people who have invited you into relationship with Jesus, and pray that God will make us to be hospitable inviters for others.