

Weekly Study Guide

The week of September 21, 2014

Daily Readings

Monday	Luke 13:10-17	Tuesday	John 15:13-15	Wednesday	Galatians 3:26-29
Thursday	Ephesians 2:11-18	Friday	Ephesians 4:1-6	Saturday	Ruth 1:1-18

My notes on this week's readings...

Next Week in Worship

Next week's message: *Empower the People of Jesus*

Next week's readings: Luke 10:1-11

Church is a people, not a place. It is a movement, not a building. The last piece of our Vision2020 growth is to empower the people of Jesus for life and service in the Kingdom of God. Join us next week to learn more.

first lutheran church

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Group Discussion

Connect	<p>We're learning today about the importance of strong relationships. Tell about a friendship or relationship that has made your life richer. (If you're married, try to think of someone other than your spouse.)</p>
Learn	<p>Read Luke 13:10-17. Jesus healed a woman who was crippled and bent over. When Jesus explained to the Pharisees why he would do this, even on a Sabbath day, he emphasized her place in the family. Using a term that doesn't seem ever to have been used before, he called her "a daughter of Abraham."</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• How do you think this woman felt when the Pharisees complained that she had been healed at the wrong time?• When Jesus answers the Pharisees' complaint about the Sabbath, his answer emphasized the woman's value and place in the people of God. He emphasized that she, too, was "a daughter of Abraham" and, therefore, a sister Israelite to all of them. Why do you think this point was so important? <p>Read John 15:13-15. Jesus told his disciples that he would call them, not "servants," but "friends." Other passages in the Bible call Christians "brothers & sisters" or "children of God" or sometimes even "the household of God." So many of these terms are relational terms. What can we learn about the meaning of being a Christian from the fact that many of the words for "Christian" are words of relationship and belonging?</p> <p>Read Galatians 3:26-29. This passage also uses family language to explain that Christians belong together in healthy relationships with one another. The original problem addressed by this passage was the division between Jews and Gentiles and the struggle they had to learn to relate to one another and to respect one another in the church family.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Do you think that this could apply to the divisions, differences, and even disrespect among generations in our culture?• How could this passage give us a vision for valuing and connecting the generations in our church family?
Apply	<p>Our culture suffers from a plague of disposable relationships. We are networked to many people but experience authentic community only rarely. Where do you think God is calling you to grow in authentic relationship with other brothers and sisters in Christ? Do you feel that God might be calling you to reach out and invest in anyone? Might God be calling you to let someone into your life?</p>
Pray	<p>There's a great prayer that comes from a traditional Lutheran communion service. It's a prayer for unity among those of us who share the Lord's Supper. Consider using this prayer together: "Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of those whom you have fed with one heavenly food. Amen."</p>