

Weekly Study Guide

The week of October 19, 2014

Daily Readings

Monday	Matthew 13:31-33	Tuesday	Mark 4:26-32	Wednesday	John 12:20-26
Thursday	Acts 9:36-42	Friday	Ezekiel 17:22-24	Saturday	Matthew 17:20

My notes on this week's readings...

Next Week in Worship

Next week's message: *Worth Everything*

Next week's readings: Matthew 13:44-46

Join us next week as we continue our study of Jesus' Kingdom parables. As a special part of this service on Next Generation Sunday, we will get to hear some student testimonies about how they have discovered the value of God's Kingdom to help us consider why Jesus is worth giving everything for.

first lutheran church

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Group Discussion

Connect

What's your favorite holiday? Why?

Learn

Read Matthew 13:31-33. Jesus told the crowds two short parables to explain the relationship between the Kingdom of God and his own humble ministry.

- What do you think the crowds would have been expecting when they learned that the Kingdom of God was being established? What kind of figure would they have expected Jesus to be?
- Jesus explained that the Kingdom of God was like the growth of a mustard seed or the effect of leaven in a mass of dough. What do these images tell you?
- Are you yourself ever tempted to overlook the works of God that seem too small to matter? What might this parable say about that?

Read Acts 9:36-42. This is a little known story about a quiet and little known woman named Tabitha.

- What does the story tell us about Tabitha?
- How famous do you think Tabitha probably was? If you had to guess, do you think Tabitha ever wondered about the significance of her work?
- Based on Jesus' parable, what do you think of Tabitha's work in the Kingdom of God?

Read Mark 4:26-29. This is another parable Jesus used to explain that the Kingdom of God might be unlike human expectations.

- What strikes you first about this parable?
- Sometimes Christians feel as if they must somehow manufacture some kind of impressive Kingdom work. What would this parable say about that idea?
- Who makes God's Kingdom grow?

Apply

We are often tempted to think that our humble service in God's Kingdom is insignificant. And sometimes we hesitate to be obedient in little things because they seem too small to matter. What do you think God might want to say to you through this passage? Is there any act of Kingdom service you think God might be prompting you toward?

Pray

There are Kingdom ministries you may know by name. They are big, impressive, famous projects. But take some time today to pray for God's blessing on the small things. Pray for small ministries you may know, and pray for God's work in the nooks and crannies of his world that you know nothing about. Pray that God will grow those mustard seeds into trees that they may become a blessing in God's world.