

Weekly Study Guide

The week of November 23 2014

Daily Readings

Monday	Ephesians 5:15-20	Tuesday	Ephesians 5:21-6:4	Wednesday	Ephesians 6:5-9
Thursday	Colossians 3:12-17	Friday	Colossians 3:18-4:1	Saturday	Luke 19:1-10

My notes on this week's readings...

Next Week in Worship

Next week's message: *Sabbath Gift?*

Next week's readings: Mark 2:23-28, Hebrews 4:8-11

Join us next week as we begin a new three week series entitled *Unwrapping the Gift*. Throughout Advent, we will be unwrapping God's gift to us in the Sabbath and how slowing down can help us to live more fully into the people God created us to be.

first lutheran church

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Group Discussion

Connect	<p>Do you wish your daily work were something other than what it is? What do you wish you could be doing instead?</p>
Learn	<p>Read Luke 3:7-14. This is a story from the ministry of John the Baptist, the forerunner of Jesus. People came to him and asked what they should do in view of God's coming as savior. It's interesting to see how John responded to them in the context of their jobs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What did John say to the tax collectors and the soldiers?• What seems to be the basic idea behind his answers?• Now use your imagination. What kind of similar answers could be given if v. 12 or v. 14 were about some of our roles? What if it said "Now some salespeople came to John and asked 'Teacher, what should we do?'" or "Some fathers asked 'What should we do?'" or "Some mothers asked 'What should we do?'" What do you think John would say to those questions or to you in one of your roles? <p>Read Ephesians 6:5-9. In this passage the apostle Paul is writing to some ancient Christians around the city of Ephesus and trying to help them imagine the implications of the Gospel for living out the practical structures of their everyday lives. A few verses earlier he wrote about how to be husbands, wives, children, and parents. Now these verses address the economic roles of slaves and masters. This isn't an endorsement of slavery (and ancient slavery was a very different thing than the horror we know from U.S. history). This is simply very practical, day-to-day advice to Christians who found themselves in those ancient roles and who wanted to carry out their roles in a more Christian way.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What did Paul say to people who were slaves?• What do you think it means to "serve as if you were serving the Lord, not people"?• Have you ever had responsibilities that felt meaningless? Can you imagine doing those tasks as if serving the Lord? What would that be like?• What did Paul say to masters?• How do you think masters heard the instruction that they should act "in the same way" as their slaves and that they serve the same master in heaven, who shows no favoritism?• Have you ever been in a position of authority over others, where you might direct somebody else's work or have some authority over their compensation? How might that role be influenced by this kind of Christian thinking?
Apply	<p>In this series, we have learned to think of our daily work, paid or unpaid, as part of our integrated 3-165 discipleship to Jesus. We have learned to "Care for the Garden," "Love Your Neighbor," and "Serve the Lord." Do you think God might be saying something to you about your discipleship to Jesus in your daily work environment? What is that and how will you respond to it?</p>
Pray	<p>Pray today for people in positions of high and low authority. You might pray for good and just professional relationships and that Christians will reflect Christ in their daily work.</p>