

Weekly Study Guide

The week of December 7, 2014

Daily Readings

Monday	Luke 4:14-16	Tuesday	Luke 4:31-32	Wednesday	Luke 6:1-11
Thursday	Luke 13:10-17	Friday	Luke 14:1-5	Saturday	Luke 23:50-56.

My notes on this week's readings...

Next Week in Worship

Next week's message: *Not Next, but Now!*

Next week's readings: Luke 1:26-49

The Gift of Sabbath is seen in a powerful way in the story of Mary. The plans she had for her life were probably not those that the angel presented to her, but having cultivated a listening heart, Mary was ready to respond in 'the now' to God's call. As the first step, God led her immediately into a time to rest and be fortified for the calling at the home of her relative Elizabeth. In the gift of Sabbath, we learn to respond not just to what's next but to what God is saying to us right now.

first lutheran church

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Group Discussion

Connect

On a scale of 1-10, how much would you say that you are “sufficiently rested.” If your score is low, when was the last time you would have given yourself a high score?

Learn

Start by discussing this topic: Is it possible to observe a law in a non-legalistic way? Can you think of any good examples of this? Why would this be good? What are the inherent challenges of approaching a law with flexibility?

Remember we are apprentices (disciples) of Jesus. Let’s get an overview of Jesus’ general practice of the Sabbath. These are all the passages in one Gospel (Luke) that mention the Sabbath. Read them out loud together and observe how Jesus approached the Sabbath: **Luke 4:14-16, Luke 4:31-32, Luke 6:1-11, Luke 13:10-17, Luke 14:1-5, Luke 23:50-56.**

- What do you observe in reading these passages?
- How would you describe Jesus’ approach to the Sabbath and/or the approach adopted by his first disciples?

Jesus obviously disagreed with certain Pharisees. But there are other ancient rabbis who taught similarly to Jesus. They said, “The Sabbath is given unto you, not you unto the Sabbath;” “There is nothing more important, according to the Torah, than to preserve human life...Even when there is the slightest possibility that a life may be at stake one may disregard every prohibition of the Torah;” and “One must sacrifice commandments for the sake of man, not man for the sake of commandments.”

- Does it surprise you or seem significant to you to know that other ancient rabbis said things like this?
- Does this make Sabbath-keeping seem any more attractive or any more realistic?

Apply

Would you like to take any “next steps” toward Sabbath-keeping? Is there anything you would stop doing? Is there anything you would start instead? When would you like to make this change?

Pray

Pray for each other today for discernment and courage to receive the gift of Sabbath rest.