

Weekly Study Guide

The week of January 18, 2015

Daily Readings

Monday	Luke 13:1-5	Tuesday	John 9:1-3	Wednesday	Luke 4:16-21
Thursday	Psalm 22:1 Job 30:20-31, Job 42:7	Friday	Hebrews 12:2-3	Saturday	Revelation 21:3-4

My notes on this week's readings...

Next Week in Worship

Next week's message: Why do we need the church?

Next week's readings: Hebrews 10:25

For many people, even when they see why it might be beneficial to believe in Jesus, or even to want to cultivate a relationship with him in prayer, or following his example in life; they have a hard time seeing God's purpose for the community of the church. If we have a relationship with the Lord, why do we need "the church?"

first lutheran church

4000 linden street • white bear lake, mn • 55110 • 651.429.5349 • flcwb.org

Group Discussion

Connect	<p>Have you gone through a time of suffering that made you question God's goodness?</p> <p>If you are past that time in your life now, what helped you get through that time? If you're in the middle of that time, what kinds of things seem to help you most?</p>
Learn	<p>So many times, when facing suffering in our lives and in the world around us, our first impulse is to try to assign blame to someone—to ourselves, to others, to God for that suffering. This tended to be a common practice during the New Testament years as well. When people around Jesus asked him the reason for suffering, what do we learn from his answers?</p> <p>Read Luke 13:1-5.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">•Does Jesus tell us why these people suffered?•What does Jesus' re-routing of the central point tell us about the bigger picture? <p>Read John 9:1-3. This passage is often translated with a "because" or a "so that" in the middle, but the Greek text does not include the "let God be glorified" as a reason for this man's blindness. It simply presents the occasion for God to be glorified in making the broken new.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">•What does Jesus' response to the question about the reason for suffering tell us about God's desire and love for people? <p>Read Luke 4:16-21. Jesus' mission statement addresses how God has heard the suffering of people, and sent his son to address those needs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">•What different kinds of human suffering are referenced here?•How does Jesus' ministry and saving work address these things? <p>Read Revelation 31:3-4.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">•What do you think defines the "Old Order"?•How about the "New Order?"
Apply	<p>If you are in a place of suffering, be honest with God about it. Bring it all to him.</p> <p>If you are helping a friend who is in a place of suffering, let them be honest, and bring them in prayer before God. Let Jesus do the work only he can do.</p>
Pray	<p>Pray for those who are in places of suffering in their lives now. Pray that they will experience the love of Jesus for them, right where they are, in his sacrificial love for them.</p>