

# Weekly Study Guide

The week of January 25, 2015

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## Daily Readings

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Monday	Mark 3:31-33	Tuesday	Romans 8:28-29	Wednesday	John 15:1-4
Thursday	1 John 4:7-12	Friday	Ephesians 2:19-22	Saturday	Ephesians 4:1-13

*My notes on this week's readings...*

## Next Week in Worship

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**Next week's message:** *Do Christians Worship Three Gods?*

**Next week's readings:** Mark 2:1-12

Christians profess faith in the Triune God, which is a mystery that has challenged many people. How can God be both three and one? Does that even make sense? Join us next week as we explore the surprising journey by which the early Christians came to this understanding of God and what difference it can make for us today.

first lutheran church

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# Group Discussion

Connect	<p>If you have been a part of a church before First Lutheran, what was that like? Share your experience with your group.</p>
Learn	<p>Read Mark 3:31-35 and Romans 8:28-29. One of the most common images in the Bible for what we now call “church” is the image of a family.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Have you ever had any experience of church that felt like a family?</li><li>• When has this been the most rewarding?</li><li>• How might this image be challenging?</li></ul> <p>John 15:1-4 is one of the key passages behind our core value, <i>Deep Roots Make Good Fruit</i>. Read and discuss this passage.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• When have you experienced a particularly powerful connection with God through church?</li><li>• What can a gathered church contribute to spiritual growth that is harder to experience alone?</li></ul> <p>Read 1 John 3:10-12. One of the most important dimensions of our core value <i>Love Pours Out</i> is the realization that God poured out his love first. God pours out his love for us and fills us up to overflowing so that we can pour out love for others from the fullness we have received from God.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• When you try to pour out love for others, does it matter whether you have been filled up with love first? What difference (s) might it make?</li><li>• What are some of your best experiences of pouring out love for others together with your church?</li><li>• What are some of your best experiences of pouring out love for others when you are apart from your church family, but you are still being the church wherever you are?</li></ul>
Apply	<p>How is God calling you forward in your commitment to, or participation in, his church at this season of your life? How will you respond to that?</p>
Pray	<p>We frequently pray for other churches in our area or around the world. Today, please pray specifically for First Lutheran, that God would bless our life and work together.</p>