

Weekly Study Guide

The week of February 1, 2015

Daily Readings

Monday	Mark 14:61-64	Tuesday	Daniel 7:1-14	Wednesday	Mark 4:35-41
Thursday	Psalms 107:23-31	Friday	Matthew 25:31-40	Saturday	Proverbs 19:17

My notes on this week's readings...

Next Week in Worship

Next week's message: *Can you really trust the Bible?*

Next week's readings: 2 Timothy 4:9-13, Luke 24:25-27

The Bible is really old, and it has been passed down through so many hands. So many people seem to think it means so many different things. Can a thinking person really take it seriously and trust its message? We're *Glad You Asked*. Join us next week to learn where the Bible comes from, how it has been passed down, and why we can still hear its message to us today.

first lutheran church

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Group Discussion

Connect	<p>What has been your favorite part of this winter? Is there something you're most looking forward to this spring?</p>
Learn	<p>The word "trinity" does not occur in the Bible. There are no Bible verses that clearly explain a theology of the trinity. Rather, the Bible gives us a witness to how the very first disciples of Jesus came to recognize Jesus as both the embodiment of the God of Israel and yet still distinct from God and how they came to experience God's own presence in the Spirit God poured out on them in Christ. "Trinity" is how they came to make sense of these revelations and experiences of God.</p> <p>Read Mark 14:61-62 and Daniel 7:13-14. Many people see Jesus' divinity in his title "Son of God." Surprisingly, though, "Son of Man" is the title that tells us more about Jesus' identity with God.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What does Daniel 7 say about this "Son of Man" figure?• How is the figure presented as being the same as God? In what ways is this figure distinct from God?• How do the people around Jesus react to his statement (Mark 14:63-64)? What can this tell us about the meaning or significance of his answer? <p>Read the story of Jesus calming the seas in Mark 4:35-41.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What does this story seem to be about?• Read Psalm 107:23-32. Who is it that calms the seas?• Mark leaves this scene with the disciples in a state of wonder (Mark 4:41): Who is this that we are dealing with? Why might they react like this? <p>In Matthew's life story of Jesus, he reinforces the teaching that Jesus is Immanuel, "God with us." Read Matthew 1:22-23 and see also Jesus' reinforcement of this idea in Matthew 28:20. But there are two other, more subtle passages that also teach this truth.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Read Matthew 18:19-20. A Jewish teaching from around the same time as Jesus says, "If two or three sit together and words of Torah are spoken between them, the Divine Presence rests between them." What does Jesus seem to be saying about himself?• Read Matthew 25:31-40. Jesus says that what you do to those who are hurting, you do to him. Now read Proverbs 19:40. What understanding does Jesus seem to have about himself and God?
Apply	<p>Theology isn't an academic game. It's a careful working out of the question, "What is God actually like?" The first Christians began to see that God was revealed in the person of Jesus and that this God would continue to be present with them in Spirit even to the end of the age. What is your picture of God like? Would it change anything in your heart or mind to see Jesus when you think of God?</p>
Pray	<p>The doctrine of the trinity is one of the major obstacles to evangelism among Muslims. Pray today for evangelists and missionaries among Muslims, that they would be able to give a faithful witness to Jesus without unnecessary misunderstandings.</p>