

Weekly Study Guide

The week of February 8, 2015

Daily Readings

Monday	Luke 24:1-12	Tuesday	Luke 24:13-35	Wednesday	Luke 24:36-51
Thursday	John 5:31-40	Friday	John 5:41-47	Saturday	Isaiah 55:10-11

My notes on this week's readings...

Next Week in Worship

Next week's message: *Could a Loving God Send People to Hell?*

Next week's readings: John 3:16-21

Have you ever wondered about what happens after we die? Can there really be such a thing as heaven and hell? Join us next week to learn more about what Jesus taught about eternity, and why the future matters now.

first lutheran church

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Group Discussion

Connect	Have you ever found the Bible to be confusing or frustrating? Would you be willing to share an example with your group?
Learn	<p>Read Luke 24:13-35. In this passage, two disciples of Jesus are walking together, full of disappointment that Jesus has died. They heard reports of the empty tomb, but they hadn't yet believed. Jesus appears to them, but they do not recognize him. What does Jesus discuss with them?</p> <p>Jesus tells these two disciples that the Old Testament scriptures were written about him (v. 27). He says this again to a larger gathering of his disciples in v. 44. When people think about the Old Testament, they often don't think first about Jesus. What do people tend to think of when they think of the Old Testament?</p> <p>By saying that the Old Testament is about him, Jesus implies that we should read it as an unfinished story in which he is the main character. This is different than reading the Old Testament as a book of laws or rules. How would you read an unfinished story about Jesus differently than you would read a book of rules?</p> <p>The Old Testament includes sections of rules that seem very out of place to modern readers. (Leviticus 20:10 says that adulterers should be executed by stoning and Deuteronomy 22:11 and Leviticus 19:19 both prohibit the wearing of blended fabrics.) Do you think it's ok to set these rules aside in light of how the story leads to Jesus?</p> <p>Read John 5:45-47. Here too Jesus says that the Bible (specifically the Old Testament books of Moses) is actually about him. In fact, we will read it unfaithfully if we don't realize that it's about him. Have you ever seen people use the Bible in a way that felt very unlike Jesus? What are some examples of this? How can we respond to this?</p>
Apply	We can read the Bible poorly by failing to keep Jesus at the center and we can also read the Bible poorly by failing to read it much at all. What kind of next step do you think would help you become a better Bible reader? (Many people throughout history have been Bible listeners more than Bible readers. Would listening to an audio Bible help you "read" more of the Bible?)
Pray	Reading the Bible faithfully and well isn't merely a human or academic exercise. It is also an act lead by the Spirit of God. Pray together today for God's work in your own hearts and minds as you read the Bible.