

Weekly Study Guide

The week of April 12, 2015

Daily Readings

Monday	Read Genesis 3:8-10	Tuesday	Read Matthew 11:28-30	Wednesday	Read Matthew 28:17-20
Thursday	Read Acts 1:4-8	Friday	Read Acts 4	Saturday	Read Galatians 5:16-26

My notes on this week's readings...

Next Week in Worship

Next week's message: *Listening to God*

Next week's readings: 2 Timothy 3:16-7; Ephesians 6:18-20

Join us next week as we continue our series *Walking with God*, where we will explore how we can learn to listen to God's leading and guidance in our lives.

first lutheran church

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Group Discussion

Connect	<p>Who in your life do you most enjoy walking with? If you could take a walk with any person in history, who would you want to walk with? Why?</p>
Learn	<p>Throughout the story of the Bible, “walking” is one of the images God uses to describe the kind of relationship he wants to have with people. Discuss how the following passages help us to see what it means to “walk with God.”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• In Genesis 3, God is pictured as walking joyfully through the Garden in search of his people to walk alongside them—until he finds them hiding. Read Genesis 3:8-10.<ul style="list-style-type: none">• How would you feel if God invited you to walk with him?• Why did Adam and Eve hide from the Lord rather than walk with him?• While Jesus walked the earth, he invited people to walk through life with him. One way He described how we would experience walking with him was by being “yoked” together with him. He used this image of a stronger animal walking side by side with a weaker animal to describe what it is like to walk with him through life. Read Matthew 11:28-30.<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What did Jesus say it would be like for us to walk with him? In what sense is his burden easy?• How have your burdens in life felt differently while walking with Jesus rather than carrying your burdens on your own? <p>After Jesus rose from the dead, he gave his disciples a new mission known as the “Great Commission.” Jesus’ followers are sent out to make disciples of all nations, but this is not something we are called to do alone.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Read Matthew 28:17-20. How is Jesus’ promise to be with us related to his mission for us? What do you think is the difference between trying to do something for God versus living on a mission with God?• Read Acts 1:4-8. What did Jesus promise to give his disciples to fulfill his mission? What do you think is the difference between knowing what Jesus did for you and being filled with the Holy Spirit?• Read Acts 4:13. What difference did the Holy Spirit make in their lives? What were they recognized for? How do you think people’s perceptions of the church could change if we were recognized as people who have been “with Jesus” rather than what we are against? <p>In his letters to the first Christians, Paul encourages the church to “keep in step with the Spirit.”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Read Galatians 5:16-26. What does Paul say it looks like for us to walk with God, or to “keep in step with the Spirit?” What does he say is the difference between living, or walking in our “flesh,” versus walking in the Spirit?• Why do you think it is significant that Paul encourages the church to “keep in step with the Spirit?” Why do you think it is easy to get out of step with the Spirit?• How do you think our “walk with the Lord” impacts our “witness to the world?”
Apply	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• When you think about how you walk in relationship with others at home and at work, how do you think you could grow in “keeping in step with the Spirit?”• Take some time and draw a circle of your “Jerusalem,” or your area of closest impact—your home, neighborhood, workplace, or school. Spend some time praying for people in your immediate area to see you as someone who walks with
Pray	<p>Spend some time confessing where you feel like you are out of step with the Spirit. Pray that your group would overflow with the fruit of the Holy Spirit. Pray that those around us would see us as people who are “with Jesus.”</p>