

Weekly Study Guide

The week of April 19, 2015

Daily Readings

Monday	Exodus 13:20-22	Tuesday	Mark 11:12-21	Wednesday	John 10:22-30
Thursday	Acts 16:1-10	Friday	Proverbs 15:22	Saturday	Acts 13:1-3

My notes on this week's readings...

Next Week in Worship

Next week's message: *Don't Walk Alone*

Next week's readings: Psalm 78:2-7; John 21:4-17

Sometimes we imagine that walking with God is something that we do alone; just us and God. But walking with God is usually meant to be done with others. It's more like a group hike than a solo trek. Join us next week to learn about the blessings we experience when we don't walk alone.

first lutheran church

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Group Discussion

Connect	<p>Can you think of a time when you had to make a big decision? How did you decide what to do?</p>
Learn & Apply	<p>In this series we are learning to “walk with God.” In the Bible we can see a variety of ways that people learned to walk where God was leading them. We may sometimes say we want a clear sign or voice from heaven, but often God leads us in other, seemingly less obvious ways.</p> <p>One of the clearest examples of God leading his people is in the story of the Exodus, when God literally led the Israelites across the desert. Read Exodus 13:20-22.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Have you ever felt that God has communicated very directly and clearly to you, maybe even audibly or visibly, about your direction or next steps in life?• What was that experience like? <p>God has often led his people through the teachings of the Scriptures. One powerful example comes from Jesus’ own life in his famous protest at the Jerusalem temple. Read Mark 11:15-17. Jesus quoted from the Biblical prophets Isaiah and Jeremiah (in v. 17) to know and explain how the people <i>should be using the temple</i>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Have you ever felt that a Bible passage or story was encouraging or directing you in some way?• It’s common for many of us to know less of the Bible than we wish we did. What are the ways that you hear or learn what the Bible says - so that God can have an opportunity to direct you by it? Do you hear or read the Bible...in worship together...in private reading...in audio recording...in conversation or shared reading with Christians?• Are there any ways that you would like to become more familiar with the Bible? What do you need to take next steps toward that goal? <p>God still communicates with his people through His Spirit, sometimes alone and often in community.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Read John 10:27-28 and Acts 16:6-7. What helps make the voice of Jesus recognizable to you, so that you might know when Jesus is leading you to something?• Read Proverbs 15:22 and Acts 13:1-3. The leading of God is often discerned in community. How is it helpful to consider and pray about life decisions with other Christians? <p>In this week’s message, we learned to discern “moments,” when we can listen and respond and walk with God. In the course of this study, do you think God is leading you to walk with him somehow? Would you like your group to help you think and pray about this? How will you respond?</p>
Pray	<p>Consider praying a prayer like this today: “God, I want to walk with you. I want to go where you are leading more than I want to set my own path. Please lead me as clearly as necessary and give me strength to take my next steps with you.”</p>