

# Weekly Study Guide

The week of May 3, 2015

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## Daily Readings

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Monday	Genesis 3:8-10	Tuesday	Genesis 3:23-24	Wednesday	John 1:14
Thursday	Revelation 21:1-3	Friday	Jeremiah 29:1-7	Saturday	Jeremiah 29:8-14

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

## Next Week in Worship

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**Next week's message:** *Bearing Witness*

**Next week's readings:** John 1:29-34, Acts 1:1-8

Most people are pretty intimidated by the idea of "witnessing" to Jesus. We've seen plenty of bad examples and aren't comfortable with "evangelism." But what if we could walk with God into our neighborhoods and allow our faith in Jesus to be received as a real blessing and gift to our neighbors? Join us next week as we learn more about "bearing witness" in a natural and life-giving way.

first lutheran church

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# Group Discussion

## Connect

What's your favorite thing about the neighborhood you live in right now?

## Learn & Apply

One of the unique and foundational convictions of Biblical Christianity is that God wants to be with his people. Read and discuss the following passage:

- Genesis 3:8-10. These verses happen immediately after the story of the first human sin, or disobedience, to God. How is God described in this passage?
- Genesis 3:23-24. These verses are the conclusion of God's "curse" in response to human sin. What has been lost?
- John 1:14. In this verse the concept of "the Word" represents the presence of God in Jesus. According to this perspective, what is God doing in Jesus?
- Revelation 21:1-3. These verses are a symbolic vision of the final outcome of God's salvation. What do you notice about the separation between God and humans?

God wants to be with his people, and in this series we are learning to walk with God and keep in step with God's spirit (Galatians 5:25). The following passage is drawn from the prophet Jeremiah—who spoke God's word to God's people when they had been carried off from Jerusalem to exile in Babylon between the years 550 and 600 B.C.

- Read Jeremiah 29:1-7. (If the names and places in vv. 1-3 are confusing, the main point is in vv. 4-7.)
- How do you think a people in exile would normally feel about the place where they had been settled?
- What things does God tell them to do?
- God had always called Israel to be a light and blessing to the people around them. How is this particular example similar to God's own commitment to be with his creation?

God has placed you in some kind of location or neighborhood, and God is already working to bless and be with the people of your neighborhood—even before you do.

- Do you know many of your neighbors?
- Can you begin praying in general or specific ways for them and for their peace and well being, as we say in the passage from Jeremiah 29?

## Pray

We have been challenged to pray individually for our own neighborhoods, but you can begin today by praying as a group for the various neighborhoods you come from. Share your ideas for this and pray with one another for your neighborhoods.