

Weekly Study Guide

The week of May 17, 2015

Daily Readings

Monday	Matthew 1:18-23	Tuesday	Matthew 18:15-20	Wednesday	Matthew 28:18-20
Thursday	Luke 5:27-32	Friday	1 Corinthians 5:1-8	Saturday	1 Corinthians 5:9-13

My notes on this week's readings...

Next Week in Worship

We are privileged to host a group of students from Minnesota Adult and Teen Challenge next week. These students will lead us with music and share their powerful and encouraging stories of being set free in Christ from substance abuse and addiction. We value children in worship, and many families have been blessed by sharing this event together in the past. However, if you would prefer for your children to learn and grow in a different way next week, our children's ministry will have another option available at both 9 and 10:30 a.m. services

first lutheran church

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Group Discussion

Connect

Tell your group about a person who you recently got to know who you didn't know before.

Learn

The basic idea for this whole *Walking with God* series has been that God is not a theory or a distant idea. God came to be with us in Jesus and invites us to walk with him. The story of Jesus' life in the book of Matthew focuses on this truth in a special way at the beginning, middle, and end of the story. **Read Matthew 1:22-23** (from the story of Jesus' birth), **18:20, and 28:19-20**.

- How is God with people in Jesus? How is this different or similar for us and for those who knew Jesus 2,000 years ago?
- What is your experience of this theme? When are you, or have you been, most aware of God with you?

Jesus was both famous and infamous for being with people, especially at meals and especially in company that others didn't think he should be keeping. He practiced the principle of "with-ness," and sometimes Jesus' followers learned to follow his example. **Read Luke 5:27-32**.

- How do you think "with-ness" led to Levi becoming a follower of Jesus?
- How did Levi follow Jesus' example?
- Why do you think Levi threw this party?

There are also obstacles that make "with-ness" more difficult.

- **Read 1 Corinthians 5:9-10**. This community of Christians had gotten the wrong idea that they were supposed to avoid "with-ness" with non-Christians. Why might they have thought this was the right thing to do?
- People also have different personalities. How might introverts practice the principle of "with-ness" in their neighborhoods? What about extroverts? What might be their challenges?

Apply

What do you think God might be saying to you about taking a next step with him? Is there a next step of "with-ness" that God is leading you to take? How will you respond to this?

Pray

As we continue to pray together for our neighbors, are there any prayer requests you'd like to share with one another?