

# Weekly Study Guide

The week of June 14, 2015

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## Next Week in Worship

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**Next week's message:** Jesus at the well

**Next week's readings:** John 4:1-42

Jesus' pattern of shattering expectations continues next week as Jesus (literally) veers off the path of the "chosen people" of his Jewish ancestry and into the territory of the Samaritans. He begins a startling conversation with a Samaritan woman about how God's people are to be all who will worship in Spirit and in Truth.

first lutheran church

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# Daily Readings

Monday	<p><b>Read John 2:13-22.</b> The Hebrew people were expecting the arrival of God's Messiah to restore God's people to a right relationship with him again as his 'chosen' people. When Jesus reacted this way to what he saw in the temple, imagine how different people would have responded. How might Jesus' actions have been for some, flying the face of expectations, and, for others, fulfilling their expectations of Messiah?</p>
Tuesday	<p><b>Read John 2:23-25.</b> In waiting for the Messiah, the Hebrew people would have known from the scriptures that the one God would come to fulfill the prophecies of restoring the blind and healing the lame. In spite of the people's favorable reaction, Jesus knew that met expectations did not mean these people would come to true faith. What is the downfall of 'faith' that depends on the 'proof' of met expectations? What happens when God's actions are not in sync with your expectations?</p>
Wednesday	<p><b>Read John 3:1-12.</b> As a Pharisee, Nicodemus might have been impressed with Jesus cleansing the temple. Pharisees are purists when it comes to following the law. Perhaps he expected Jesus to bring in an era of reform, cracking down on deviance from true observance of the law. Instead, Jesus talks about the life of true faith being more like starting a new life, being guided into things that no one could predict! How is following a person different than following a rule? What does this tell us about God's heart?</p>
Thursday	<p><b>Read John 3:13-21.</b> When the camp of the Israelites was attacked by poisonous snakes, God brought the cure in that if the people looked at the bronze snake (the image of what brought the sickness), they would be healed. In the same way, Jesus was sent, as a human being, to become the source of healing for us. He entered into human form because it was already sick with sin. His role is to be the cure. You will only look for a cure, however, if you know you're sick! How do we come to realize we need new life enough to look to Jesus?</p>
Friday	<p><b>Read John 3:22-36.</b> When a movement reaches the kind of popularity and influence that John the Baptist's teaching had, the obvious expectation is that it will move forward and expand. John's followers see Jesus as competition, but John knows the role he is called to play. Because John loves and trusts the Lord, he retreats from the spotlight. "I'm just the best man at this wedding." In what ways can we, when we have the world's attention, turn instead to introduce others to Jesus?</p>
Saturday	<p><b>Read Hebrews 1:1-3.</b> In our culture, when people are asked what they think God is like, their ideas can be all over the map. These verses tell us that God's final word to us, to show us who he is, is Jesus. Looking at Jesus, what do we learn about who God is, and what he wants for us?</p>