

# Weekly Study Guide

The week of September 20, 2015

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## Daily Readings

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Monday	Luke 14:1-6	Tuesday	Luke 7:11-17	Wednesday	Mark 6:32-34
Thursday	Matthew 9:35-38	Friday	Matthew 14:13-14	Saturday	Matthew 20:29-34

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

## Next Week in Worship

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**Next week's message:** *Jesus' Secret to Women*

**Next week's readings:** Luke 10:38-42

It is a strangely well-kept secret that Jesus started a revolution of gender equality. He taught female disciples when no one else did, and he honored marriage in a way that protected and valued women equally with men. The early Christians scandalized their world with respect for women and men together. Join us next week to hear more about what Jesus has done and continues to do.

first lutheran church

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# Group Discussion

## Connect

Did anyone in your group attend the State Fair this year? If so, what's your favorite thing to do there?

## Learn and Respond

Read Luke 14:1-6 together.

- First, to help you connect with this simple-sounding event, try to retell this story in your own words.
- What is the tension in this story? If you were the person hosting this dinner party or one of the other guests, what different feelings might you have had as these events unfolded?
- Why do you think Jesus healed this man?
- What point(s) do you think Jesus is trying to make in v. 5?

Read Mark 6:32-34. This is one of many passages that describe Jesus as "compassionate." (See this week's daily readings for more examples.) The word "com-compassion" comes from root words that mean "to suffer with" or "to feel or experience with."

- What things contribute positively to feelings or actions of compassion? In other words, when we are compassionate, what helps us become that way?
- What things limit our feelings and actions of compassion? What prevents us from being compassionate?

Consider how God might be inviting you to next steps of response.

- Has anyone ever shown you compassion? What was that like?
- Sometimes people close to us need our compassion; maybe children, parents, or friends. Sometimes it might be strangers or groups of vulnerable people who aren't particularly close to us that are in need of Christian compassion. Do you think God might be calling you to a new or renewed practice of Christ-like compassion?

## Pray

Who do you know that is sick or hurting? Pray for them together. Pray also today for greater compassion toward others.