

Weekly Study Guide

The week of December 6, 2015

Wish to view the message again? Go to vimeo.com/flcwb. Will you be out of town soon? Watch online at livestream.com/flcwb.

Wish to ask Pastor Steve question about today's message? Contact him at 651.429.5349 x215 or sturnbull@flcwb.org.

Daily Readings

Monday	Psalms 120	Tuesday	John 1:9-14	Wednesday	Matthew 12:46-50
Thursday	Revelation 21:1-5	Friday	Matthew 8:18-22	Saturday	2 Corinthians 5:6-10

Next Week in Worship

Next week's message: *I Will Make a Home for You*

Next week's readings: John 14:1-7

We all search for home, and often we look for it where it cannot be found. But God in Christ comes to make a home with and for us. When we are in Christ, our home is already and always here. Join us next week to learn more about finding a home in Christ and making a safe home for others.

first lutheran church

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Group Discussion

Connect

Where do you think of as “home” for you? Maybe your childhood home or where you feel “at home” now?

Learn and Respond

The Psalms of the Old Testament are a collection of prayers and songs from God’s ancient Israelite people. Psalm 120 is the first of several “pilgrim psalms.” They were probably prayed and sung by Israelites traveling from distant places on their journey up to Jerusalem. Read Psalm 120.

- The writer of this Psalm lived far from home in “Meshak” or “Kedar” (v. 5). How did he feel about living away from home?
- What seems to have made the writer of this Psalm feel so out of place (see vv. 2-3 and 6-7)?
- Have you ever felt out of place because your values clashed with the people around you? What is that like? Do you think this is specific to a place or could it happen anywhere?
- What did this writer do in the midst of feeling so far from home (v. 1)?
- The writer of this prayer is setting out on a journey to Jerusalem to gather with other scattered members of his people, probably for Passover or another similar holiday. But he does not seem to be planning a permanent move. What do you think it means that God’s people live scattered in many places? What might be a positive purpose for living in the midst of people who don’t know God?

Jesus’ commitment to share meals with “sinners” tells us a lot about him. You might say that it was a part of his mission to welcome back home those who had wandered far from home. Read Mark 2:13-17 and Luke 15:1-2 for just two examples of this. You might also choose to read the famous parable of the prodigal son in Luke 15:11-32 for a story of coming home again.

- Do you think you have ever wandered from home?
- Do you feel welcome home to God again? (Perhaps your group could take a moment and encourage one another and express “welcome” to one another, no matter where we’ve wandered.)
- Not only does Jesus welcome you home, but his mission sets an example for us to follow. There are many other wanderers who need to receive the love of their heavenly father again. Who do you know who needs to be loved and welcomed home? Is there someone you might invite into your life or invite to share a meal with you as a sign of God’s love?

Pray

Here are a few prayer ideas for this week:

- Pray to God about returning home from your wandering. God has kept the light on for you. Are you ready to come home?
- Pray about people who feel homeless: spiritually, physically, or both. Ask God if there is something He wants you to do in response.
- The Christian artist Chris Rice sings a song called *Home Tonight*. You might find a copy or an online recording and listen to it as you reflect on God’s love and our journey home.