

# Weekly Study Guide

The week of December 13, 2015

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

Wish to ask Danny a question about today's message? Contact him at 651.429.5349 or [dhousholder@flcwb.org](mailto:dhousholder@flcwb.org).

## Daily Readings

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Monday	Luke 15:11-32	Tuesday	John 14:1-7	Wednesday	2 Samuel 7:1-9, 11b-12
Thursday	Psalms 127:1-2	Friday	Isaiah 32:18-20	Saturday	Proverbs 24:3-4

## Next Week in Worship

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**Next week's message:** *My Heart, Your Home*

Join us as we look into the story of Christmas through our annual Christmas program. We'll tell the message of redemption and hope that has been made available to all of us through Scripture, songs, messages, and a live performance drama.

first lutheran church

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# Group Discussion

Connect	<p>What does the word “home” make you think of? How do you feel at home? Maybe it’s comfort—perhaps, it’s stressful.</p>
Learn & Respond	<p>Jesus often used simple, relatable and memorable stories to convey important messages. We know them as parables. In his famous parable of the Lost Son, Jesus tells of a son who leaves home in order to pursue his worldly ambitions. <b>Read Luke 15:11-32.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The son asks his father for his share of the estate before his father has died (verse 12). What does this say about how the son sees his relationship with his father?</li><li>• Take a look at the son’s downward spiral of events as he wanders from home (verses 13-17). What made him “come to his senses” in verse 17? Talk about what it feels like to be stuck in this rock bottom moment.</li><li>• The son makes plans so that his father might accept him as a servant (verses 18-19). Discuss the ways in which you try to fix your problems. Are you typically successful? Why or why not?</li><li>• See how the father welcomes his son home, removing any sense of guilt (verses 20-24). Have you ever been so welcomed that your debts are removed? What kinds of emotions do you feel in those moments?</li><li>• The lost son’s older brother doesn’t share the same feelings as his father regarding the son’s return (verses 25-30). Why does Jesus make sure to tell this side of the story? How can you relate?</li><li>• The story concludes with the father reiterating why he welcomed the lost son home (vv. 31-32). If Jesus used parables to teach us about God and our relationship with him, what have we learned about Him and what He wants from us?</li></ul> <p>In John 14, Jesus speaks about our future home and how we get there. <b>Read 14:1-7.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What might have been troubling the disciples in verse 1? How does Christ respond (see verses 2-4)? Who does Jesus say is welcome in his Father’s home, and what does this say about the way to Heaven?</li><li>• What are the things in your life that keep you from trusting Jesus’ promise of eternal salvation?</li><li>• The disciples seem to need a road map to Heaven in verse 5. The way to Heaven has been in front of them all this time in Jesus, but they still feel lost. In the moments you feel spiritually lost—when you’re not sure which turn or road to take—how do you deal? Take time to encourage one another in the ways you seek Christ.</li><li>• See how Jesus explains the way to Heaven in verses 6-7. Does this seem fair? Is the road too narrow?</li><li>• If the road to Heaven is through Christ, what does this say about our current location?</li></ul>
Pray	<p>Here are a few prayer ideas for this week:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Pray to God about making your home in him. Only here do we find untouchable joy, peace and comfort. Are you ready to find a home in his heart, placing your complete identity in him?</li><li>• Pray about how you can help others find their home in God. Ask God what you can do to encourage those around you who are pursuing a life that wanders away from His welcoming, loving and forgiving arms.</li></ul>