

Weekly Study Guide

The week of September 18, 2016

Wish to view the message again? Go to vimeo.com/flcwb. Will you be out of town soon? Watch online at livestream.com/flcwb. Desire to ask Pastor Steve a question about today's message? Contact him at 651.429.5349 x2215 or sturnbull@flcwb.org.

A Community of Grace

Things I'd like to remember about today's message...

Daily Readings

MONDAY

John 3

TUESDAY

John 4

WEDNESDAY

John 5

THURSDAY

John 6

FRIDAY

John 7

SATURDAY

John 8

Regular habits of private Bible reading strengthen our relationship with God and teach us how to follow Jesus. In addition to the thematic exercise above, you can use this guide each week to lead you through relevant sections of the Bible.

Group Discussion

CONNECT

What's the most unusual personal name you've ever known? Or, what's your middle name and where did it come from?

LEARN AND APPLY

The parables in Luke 15 are some of the most famous teaching stories from Jesus' life. Sometimes, though, the context in the first couple verses is forgotten. Read Luke 15:1-7.

- From whatever you know about Jesus, whether that's a lot or a little so far, what do you think attracted sinners to Jesus? (Hint: It's probably more than one thing. Use your imagination: What do you think Jesus talked to them about while they ate?)
- Why do you think the Pharisees grumbled about this?
- Would you think of yourself as a sinner, a Pharisee, or some of both? What does this passage say to you?
- What do you think would make people who are full of shame and guilt and far from God want to gather around you like they did with Jesus?

Even after all of Jesus' life and teaching, the early Christians still needed to be pushed to take the good news to outsiders. We are continuing to read the story of Peter and Cornelius this week. You may want to review Acts 10:1-8 from last week and then read Acts 10:9-23.

- What, specifically, does God show Peter?
- What are God's specific words to Peter (v. 15)?
- What does Luke (the writer of Acts) say happened right after this vision?
- Christians have traditionally understood this vision to be the moment when God changed the Old Testament food laws, which is less certain than it first appears. What else could this vision mean for Peter?

In today's message we learned more about the potential new name for our church, Community of Grace Lutheran Church.

- What are the things you like best about this name? What hesitations do you have? (It's okay to talk about both. There are strengths and weaknesses for almost everything in life.)
- How have you experienced your church and your growth group as a community of grace?
- Regardless of our renaming process, how could your group (or your family or another circle of friends) grow to be more of a community of God's grace?

PRAY

Please pray that our church family would grow in its strength of community and the experience and practice of God's grace.