

Weekly Study Guide

The week of October 9, 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 Angie a question about today's message? Contact her at 651.429.5349 x208 or away@flcwb.org.

Daily Readings

MONDAY

Acts 5:12-16

TUESDAY

Acts 5:17-42

WEDNESDAY

Acts 6:1-7

THURSDAY

Acts 6:8-15

FRIDAY

Acts 7:1-34

SATURDAY

Acts 7:35-53

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

Talk about different kinds of service work you have done in the past. Which was your favorite kind of service? What led you to do it? What did you enjoy about it?

LEARN AND APPLY

This week we continue to learn from the story of Peter and Cornelius. **Read Acts 11:1-18.** Now that God had finally convinced Peter to love and serve outsider Gentiles, Peter had to tell his fellow Jewish Christians about it.

- How did the other Jewish Christians react at first (verse 3)?
- Read these passages from the Old Testament to get a better understanding of their objections. Exodus 12:43-49 and Ezra 6:20-21. How is this different from what God told Peter in this story?
- Peter and the other followers of Jesus would have seen this before. Read John 4:7-10. How do Jesus' actions here resonate with what the Holy Spirit leads Peter to do in Acts 11?

(Continued on page 2)

Group Discussion continued

- When Peter explains what he had experienced as he followed the leading of God's Holy Spirit, he adds a line we hadn't heard before in verse 14. (Hindsight is 20/20!) What do Peter's words in verses 12-17 tell you about what he is learning about God?
- What do you think we might need to learn about God from these verses?

Before this event, Peter probably had many ideas about how he 'should' serve God that had to be surrendered to start this new way of serving. In Acts 11:17, Peter reminds us all what he learned; God alone is God!

- Have there ever been any times in your history where you wondered if you were standing 'in God's way' of something he wanted to do through you? A call to forgiveness? A call to let go of bitterness? A call to serve in a way that you were not sure you were ready for?
- What convinced you to think again about what God was asking of you?

When we start to see the outward focus of God's heart for the world it starts to change the way we see our own role in the world, as those who belong to Jesus. **Read Matthew 25:31-40.**

- Jesus tells these people that when they helped others, they really helped him. What does this tell us about Jesus' compassion for our concerns?
- What does this tell us about what God wants for human beings in this world?
- What does this tell us about how belonging to God's team and serving others go hand in hand?
- Why do you think Jesus told this story? What do you think motivated these people to love their neighbors in this way?

In the message on Sunday, we learned that the call to live an outward focused life is not just about doing things for others, or even for God, but about joining the Lord in working WITH him in the world.

- When you think of service being what do you WITH Jesus instead of just FOR Jesus, does that change how you see the purpose for serving?
- If so, how? If not, why?
- How do you think God might be calling you to share his outward focus? Is there a next step of service you feel called to take?

PRAY AND APPLY

There are many opportunities to grow in service through our Church family that are offered each week! Are there ways that you might like to stretch your comfort zone to serve, that might help you see how God is at work in the world?

God has also created you with unique passions and gifts to use in the world. How might you use those gifts to serve with Jesus wherever you are this week?