

Weekly Study Guide

February 19, 2017

Wish to view the message again? Go to vimeo.com/flcwb. Will you be out of town soon? Watch on-line 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

Sunday	Jeremiah 13:15-17	Warns the Southern Kingdom of coming exile. Jeremiah, sometimes called the weeping prophet, felt keenly the people's rebellion against God.
Monday	Lamentations 3:21-24	Written during the exile lamenting how bad things are and looking to God for hope and restoration.
Tuesday	Ezekiel 18:30-32	The prophet who stayed in Jerusalem during the exile to preach to the people there. God has him do some strange things to get them to repent.
Wednesday	Daniel 3:17-18	God's people in exile. Serving God under persecution. Many glimpses into the spiritual realm.
Thursday	Hosea 2:23	Prophet to Northern Kingdom before the exile. God asks Hosea to marry a prostitute to show how God feels about his people running out on him to other gods and his faithfulness regardless.
	Joel 2: 12-13, 2:28-29	Prophet pleads with people to return to God. Prophesied God's plan for restoration for his people.
	Amos 5:14, 5:23-24	Amos, a tree farmer, bluntly calls out the sins of his town and neighboring towns, before returning to his fig trees.
	Obadiah 1:15	Prophet proclaiming Edom won't get away with their bullying of Israel.
Friday	Jonah 3:10	Story of a reluctant prophet who eventually went to tell Ninevah to repent and was mad when God didn't destroy them; shows God's desire for people to return to him.

The Reading Guide is continued on the next page.

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.

Saturday	Micah 6:8	Prophet tells Southern Kingdom of coming exile and restoration. Prophecy of God's coming Messiah.
	Nahum 1:7	Predicting the eventual destruction of the Assyrians and the comforting of the Hebrew people following exile.
	Habakkuk 3:2	Written while Jerusalem was falling; showing hope for the future.
	Zephaniah 3:17	God's long-range plan for restoration of his people.
	Haggai 2:4-5	After exile in the time of rebuilding, encouragement that God is with his people.
	Zechariah 2:10-13	Zechariah was prophet and priest encouraging the rebuilding of the city and their faith.
	Malachi 3:1	After the rebuilding, Malachi encourages them to look for the coming of the Messiah.

Group Discussion Guide

CONNECT

Do you have a favorite story from the Bible? If you do, why is it your favorite? If you don't, what interests you most about the Bible?

LEARN AND APPLY

Read Psalm 145 out loud. As it is read, note when David is talking about the Lord, and when he is talking to the Lord.

- Psalms were (and are) used both as personal prayers and as tools for corporate worship (all together).
- What do you notice about the interplay between talking to God about his goodness and talking to people (or one's own self) about God's goodness? Do you see a spiritual benefit in each of these approaches? What is going on in the heart when one is talking TO God? What is going on in the heart when one is talking ABOUT God?

Read John 5:35-40. What is the misconception regarding the function of the word of God these people are under? What is the difference between seeing the word of God as a set of rules to follow in order to achieve benefit for oneself and seeing the word of God as an introduction to the Living Lord who wants to guide your life?

- Why do you think people keep falling back into the trap of thinking they can achieve salvation without God's help? What issues are at play here?
- The Good News of Jesus Christ is that God himself has come to save us by his own life being at work in our lives. Does our study of the word lead us to think about God, or go to God? How might our study of the word help us recognize the one who comes to meet us, rather than give us a bigger to-do list?

Open your Bibles to Luke 7. This chapter contains four different stories of Jesus' interactions with people. Depending on the size of your group, and the time available, divide into smaller groups to investigate the findings from one or two of each of these stories.

- Luke 7:1-10: The Faith of the Centurion
- Luke 7: 11-17: Jesus Raises a Widow's Son

- Luke 7: 18-35: Jesus and John the Baptist
- Luke 7: 36-50: Jesus Anointed by the Sinful Woman

For each of these stories, ask and record the answers to the following:

- Summarize the action of the story (to recount later to the large group).
- What are the people of God doing in this story? What does this tell you about what they're thinking?
- What is Jesus doing in this story? What does this tell you about the heart of God?
- What are the people's reactions to what Jesus does?
- From what you have learned about who Jesus is from this story, how do you think God wants you to respond to him? What do you think this same God is doing/wants to do in your life?

Take some time to talk through each of these stories and answer the questions. Then rejoin the larger group and share the insights which came from your engagement with the text until all the groups have shared. Did you see something more of who Jesus is for you today through engaging the Word of God? How might the study help you to recognize the 'approach' of God's love for you?

PRAY

Not everyone has the gift of prophecy, and that is a good thing! As we read in 1 Corinthians 12, the body of Christ is one made up of many parts-and all are equally important. However, even though we are not all called to prophesy, each one of us can speak and be with God. Close in prayer with this in mind, asking God for his voice to guide your life. If you would like, **read Psalm 116** as a prayer, trusting that God is with you, which allows you to live to serve him.