



Reading through the New Testament—Week 3

January 29-February 4, 2023



Reading Plan available on YouVersion Bible App (QR Code).

Have you missed a few days of reading? That's ok! You are forgiven. Feel free to read two chapters (hard copy plan) or two days (YouVersion Bible App) a day to catch up. Within the Reading Through the New Testament Bible App plan, click on the three dots in the top right hand side of the screen and press "catch me up." This matches the day in the plan with the current calendar date, eliminating the guilt of seeing how many days you have missed.

Becoming more like Jesus—growing in His Word

Disciples for Life

For National Lutheran Schools Week, ESM joins Concordia Lutheran High School and more than 1,800 Lutheran preschools, elementary schools, and high schools across the world in celebrating God's gift of Christian education. The theme this year is "Making Disciples for Life," as we heed God's call to make disciples and make them stronger by baptizing and teaching them to follow Christ's command to love God and love neighbor.

ESM is blessed to nurture children in their faith, learning, and relationships. Our dedicated and talented faculty and staff faithfully serve the students and their families as we proclaim the love of Jesus while providing excellent, Christ-centered education.

It is a great joy to serve each and every child who comes in to ESM and to serve God's kingdom through the graduates we send out. It is our prayer and commitment that all students grow confident in their salvation in Christ, are prepared for their future callings, and have a sense of Christian community as they head to high school. Praise God for doing this good work through ESM!

This Week's Sermon Outline

"View of a Vineyard"

Today's Focus: Matthew 20:1-16

Reading through the New Testament - Week 4

View of a Vineyard: Earthly Story

Landowner

Morning Crew

Lunch Crew

Late Afternoon Crew

L___ isn't fair...

View from a Landowner: Heavenly Meaning

Response

What is Grace?

Grace Is!

New Testament in a Year—January 29-February 4

Matthew

Chapter 16  17  18  19  20 

Additional Reflections from this week's reading . . .

This week as you read, take note of the narratives or stories that stand out to you from each chapter. As you notice these stories, ask the question:

1. What from this scripture connects with my life?
2. Pray: God, what are you speaking into my life through this reading?

Matthew 16: Here we have another narrative that involves yeast, although not a parable. What can you take away from this discussion between Jesus and his disciples?

Matthew 17: Want to learn more about the Transfiguration from a former Concordia Seminary professor check out professor Buls' Notes at pericope.org/buls-notes/matthew/matthew_17_1_9.htm

Matthew 18: Verses 15 - 17, help understand how God wants us to handle conflict management. Is there anyone in your life that you need to reconcile with? What is your first step?

Matthew 19: This past week we celebrated our Lutheran School Heritage and the nurturing of faith in young people. How can you encourage students or teachers you know as they grow in their connection with God?

Matthew 20: See sermon notes. If you missed this weekend's services, check them out on our YouTube Channel - youtube.com/@stmfw.

Belonging in Community

Connect groups are communities—a group of Christians who meet together regularly—where we intentionally share in our faith walk. Through commitment and presence in fellowship, discussion, and prayer, you will experience connection.

Begin your time together by following up on anything that was shared during your last time together. In this guide there are personal prompts for sections of this week's readings. Take some time to share any reflections or aha's you had from them. As people share - be sure to engage by finding ways that you connect with what they are sharing as well as looking for ways to give some healthy direction or feedback.

Afterwards take some time to discuss these questions.

- Where in life do you feel like the workers who started work early?
- How does this parable affect the posture of your heart in the situation?
- Where in life do you connect with the workers who started last?
- How does this parable affect the posture of your heart in the situation?
- When you are working with someone who doesn't believe in Jesus how can we live out the lesson in this parable in a way that gives glory to God?

Take some time to pray together as God's workers.

Blessing the World

As ESM strives to "make disciples for life" they love to have volunteers who exemplify what it means to follow Christ by being his hands and feet. Here are some (but certainly not all) ways to volunteer at the St. Michael campus:

1. Recess Helper (especially Friday afternoons)
2. Special Event Helper
3. Library Helper
4. Preschool Mystery Readers

Contact Pastor Shawn, Mrs. Latin, or Mrs. Ackmann for more information.
Note: All ESM volunteers must go through a background check process.