



# Go Further . . . West Weekly Study Guide

**MONDAY 09.12.11 Deuteronomy 8:10-18**

Imagine a birthday celebration where no one cared about the birthday girl/boy and they only wanted to talk about what a great job they had done in throwing the party and choosing the presents!

Deuteronomy reminds us that God, not us, is the ultimate guest of honor when we celebrate things like a “1st birthday” of a successful new faith community launch.

- **Is there an area of West you can reflect on that has reflected the goodness of God in other’s lives? If so, what was unique about it so that it conveyed that message?**

We are called to celebrate the difference that West makes in lives because God is empowering great human beings to be His vessels and his hand/feet/voice in our local community and world.

We must always remember to celebrate a balance between praising and thanking God for allowing us to be a part of the bigger picture and then getting consumed by the actual journey we are on! Far too often we get so busy with “doing” we forget to just “be” a child of a loving, mighty God.

- **What is something you can do to be more intentional about praising/thanking God for his activity in your life?**
- **What are ways you can not only serve but also make sure you are maintaining a personal walk with Jesus Christ through devotion, study, and prayer?**

**TUESDAY 09.13.11 Luke 15:1-10**

“This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.” The “righteous” religious leaders saw that as a bad thing. However, Jesus was different! He was glad that those stereotyped as “sinners” would eat with him and accept God’s love. He told the leaders (who were sinners too, after all!) that nothing sets off more celebrating in heaven than when even one of God’s lost children comes back to God.

In Ezekiel 34:11, God said, “I myself will search for my sheep.” If you see sheep as a commodity, it might be wise to write off one sheep, and guard the rest. Jesus didn’t see people that way. We are seen as relational people with a relational God.

- **What does that say about how much God loves us as humans?**
- **How does this transfer to how we are called to love one another?**

**WED. 09.14.11 Proverbs 29:18**

**What does it mean to “vision?”**

*Vision* means: the act or power of sensing with the eyes.  
Act or power of anticipating that which may come to be.

- **Key words here are “sensing” and “anticipating”**
- **The West Leadership Team is committed to casting a vision for what West can be in this community & world and how we can make a difference.**

Our mission is to change lives and change the world through Jesus Christ and as we journey through 2011-2012 we are committed to doing just that!

As you go through each day, work on “anticipating” where God is speaking to you.

- **How is God moving in you and among your realm of influences to become actively involved in the work of the church?**

**Find a missional area that you are passionate about, pray about how God can utilize your gifts, and then JUST JUMP IN and serve. OR contact someone on the Leadership Team, share your vision and let’s make it a reality so that lives are better in our community and world!**

## Sermon Sept. 11

### “Grab Your Broom”

-Rev. Andrea Smith

### Scripture Reference:

Luke 16:

*Things I’d like to remember from this weeks message:*

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### Prayer for Upcoming Week:

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## Prayer Concerns:

**Don Armstrong**, hospitalized on 9/6, now home.

**Jake Kilgore**, hospitalized @ CMC on 9/8.

## CONGRATS:

**Brian and Linda Thompson** on the birth of a baby girl, **Boston L. Thompson**. 8/11

**THURSDAY**

**09.15.11**

**John 10:1-18**

I love airports! Yes, that's odd but I've always been a bit odd! I never mind hanging out in an airport because I am either excited about the different destination to which I am going or am happy to be returning home.

The airport is a place of "connection." It, itself, is not a destination. Its sole purpose is to help people reach their destination. But stop to think about how dull and frustrating traveling would be if the "airport" was all there was!

Sometimes followers of Christ think the "church" is the final destination, where we are supposed to end up. It has an incorrect interpretation of what is important. It is not about people hovering around the church. When that is what is happening then actually the church is doing a disservice because we are keeping people from where they want to go, their real destination.

LIFE is the real destination.

Jesus did not say, "I have come to give you church and give it to you more abundantly." He said he came to give us LIFE.

That is one of the beauties of West. There is NO BUILDING for which to hover. Other than a few hours on Sunday morning we HAVE to be the church . . . Wherever we are . . . Whatever we are doing . . . However we are experiencing life . . . We are THE church!

- **What are the ways in which you are experiencing LIFE and living out being the church this week?**
- **What are new ways you can focus your attention and carry the message of hope and love to people that need to hear it, on behalf of "the church."**

<sup>14-21</sup>That's when Peter stood up and, backed by the other eleven, spoke out with bold urgency: "Fellow Jews, all of you who are visiting Jerusalem, listen carefully and get this story straight. These people aren't drunk as some of you suspect. They haven't had time to get drunk—it's only nine o'clock in the morning. This is what the prophet Joel announced would happen:

"In the Last Days," God says,  
"I will pour out my Spirit  
on every kind of people:  
Your sons will prophesy,  
also your daughters;  
Your young men will see visions,  
your old men dream dreams.  
When the time comes,  
I'll pour out my Spirit  
On those who serve me, men and  
women both,  
and they'll prophesy.  
I'll set wonders in the sky above  
and signs on the earth below,  
Blood and fire and billowing  
smoke,  
the sun turning black and the  
moon blood-red,  
Before the Day of the Lord arrives,  
the Day tremendous and marvelous;  
And whoever calls out for help  
to me, God, will be saved."

**FRIDAY**

**09.16.11**

**Revelation 19:4-9, 22:1-5, 16-17**

Exiled for his faith, the writer of Revelation had seen some of his friends killed for no other crime than their loyalty to Jesus. With bold confidence, he pictured all of history building toward a gigantic celebration. In the end, he saw "a great multitude, like the roar of rushing waters and like loud peals of thunder," shouting at the top of their lungs, "Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns."

The beauty and glory of it is that everyone (including all of us) is invited to the party: "Let all who wish take the free gift of the water of life."

- **How confident are you in God's desire and ability to work through you, and your involvement in West to extend God's reign throughout the Lake Norman community and beyond?**
- **What can you commit, in the way of time, talents and money, to join in God's purpose of calling together the "great multitude" John saw praising God? A**

**As we move into our next year we will join together loudly as we proclaim "Our God Reigns!" as we share that message of hope, grace, and redemption through the way we live our lives and BE church!**

**SATURDAY**

**09.17.11**

**Scripture on Left - Acts 2**

***Any dream that isn't intimidating to you is insulting to God.***

—Steven Furtick, pastor of Elevation Church

Just a few years ago Steven Furtick joined together with a small group of people and launched a faith community that is now one of the fastest growing congregations in the US. In his book "Sun Stand Still" he writes of how the vision he believed God gave him was audacious and radical, yet he truly felt like it was where God was leading him.

**As we boldly go into West's second year let us ALWAYS be about pursuing radical dreams! Ready to be different, ready to reach out, ready to change lives and change the world through Christ!**