

*God Reimagined: The Biblical Foundation of Luther's Reformation*  
*Living the Message 2023-2024*  
November 2024 Study Guide for Participants and Facilitators

**November:** *God's Two Words: Law & Gospel* with Pastor Ruud

[Click here to watch the video.](#)

### **Opening Prayer**

*Dear God, bless each one who comes to this study. Open our ears, hearts, and minds so that we may come to know you more deeply through our study about the life and theology of your servant, Martin. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.*

### **Focus Statement**

At the heart of Martin Luther's theology is the conviction that words don't just *say* things, they *do* things. This is true of our words, but even more true of God's word. Luther describes some of the most important things God's word does through the phrase "law and Gospel." the law makes clear what God hopes for us and the world, but it also holds us accountable and tells us the truth about ourselves—that we need grace. The Gospel is the good news that in Christ, God has promised to forgive, love, and accept us always. This second, deeper truth about God's response to us creates in us faith and hope so that we may live in the world confident of God's grace and support.

### **Questions**

1. What was one of your takeaways from Pastor Ruud's presentation? A first thought or question?
2. How do you experience God's law as a guide positively? What would life be like without law?
3. How do you experience God's law as accusation, showing where we've fallen short and pointing us to our need for grace? What would life be like with that dimension of the law?

4. Discuss the dynamic way law and Gospel still function in our lives. Make a list of or discuss:
  - a. Modern expressions of Luther's sense of the law—things that rob us of abundant life, e.g. insecurity and fear
  - b. Modern expressions of Luther's sense of the Gospel—things that bring abundant life, e.g. sense of acceptance, worthiness, and courage
5. For Luther, the primary function of both the law and the Gospel is to tell us the truth about both ourselves and about God.
  - a. Where do you see the truth about ourselves—the good and the bad and everything in between—playing out in your daily life, in the news, in our life together?
  - b. Where do you see the Gospel, and what difference does it make when you hear this second, deeper truth?
6. Review the Parable of the Sower (Mark 4:1-9) and the Parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37). How do these parables relate to the first truth of the law (about ourselves) and show us the second truth of the Gospel (God's response to us)?

### **Deeper Dive with Pastor Lose**

Read and discuss Matthew 20:1-16 (The Parable of the Day Laborers).

1. How does this parable shift in your eyes when looked at through the lens of the law and through the lens of the Gospel?
2. What surprises you most about grace?

### **Closing Prayer**

*Dear God, at times you can seem distant from us, watching from a distance but not terribly involved in our day-to-day lives. Help us to understand and appreciate Martin Luther's emphasis that you are regularly at work in our lives through the law and the Gospel, and enable us to experience your lively grace that we may share it with others. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.*

### **Next Month**

*An Ambidextrous God: Two Kingdoms with Pastor Lose*

Tuesday, December 5, 6:30-7:30pm at the Mpls Campus in Room 207

If you have any questions, please contact Katie Stevenson, Coordinator of Adult Education:  
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