

Study Guide

For the Week of January 4, 2009

This study guide is designed to help you to become more familiar with the Bible. Study these passages on your own, with a friend, or with a group. If you or someone you know needs a Bible, please take one from under a chair in the Worship Center. They are there for you to take home and use! Message manuscripts are available at www.spwired.com.

Monday—Read Acts chapter 16 in the New Testament. Who did Paul share Christ with on that first Sabbath in Philippi? In Acts 16 the text says of both Lydia and the Jailer that "they and their entire household were baptized." These two texts are seen as possible examples of the baptism of children in the New Testament. In the story of the girl with the "spirit", notice that the changes that came in her life as she received Christ were not appreciated by others. Can you think of times when this would be true today? Can you picture Paul and Silas, "severely beaten" and in chains, yet singing hymns and praying at midnight in the jail cell? What does this teach us about finding joy in the face of difficulty? What did the jailer experience when he accepted Christ?

Tuesday—Read Philippians 1:1-11. Study this passage intently, listening for God to speak to you. Notice in verse 1 what Paul calls the members of the church. What does this mean for you? Why did Paul pray with joy for the Philippians--see vv. 4-6. Reflect on Paul's prayer in verses 9 - 11. This would be his prayer for YOU. What does this mean? What would this look like in your life?

Wednesday—Read Philippians 1:12-18. How did Paul's perspective on his suffering bring him joy? What does this mean for how you look at suffering? While Paul was in prison some Christian preachers seemed to take pleasure in this--there was conflict and competition even in the early church. How does Paul rise above bitterness here and find the ability to "rejoice"? What might this mean for you when dealing with people who would "stir up trouble for you"?

Thursday— Read Philippians 1:18-26. Notice that joy came in part through the prayers of the people caring for Paul. Note Paul's hope in verse 20. Describe Paul's faith in these verses. How did this help him face his own death with hope? **Read 1 Corinthians 15:51-58** (also written by Paul).

Friday—Read Philippians 1:27-29 in the New Testament. What is Paul challenging you to do in these verses? What does it mean to "contend for the faith of the gospel" (v. 27)? Paul was arrested when he started the church in Philippi. It appears from verses 29-30 that the believers there were still being persecuted. How would you face persecution for your faith? Notice v. 29 indicates that suffering for Christ is a privilege.

Prayer Concerns

Serving in Iraq:

Curtis Phillips
Cyle Haywood (non-
military)

Military:

Jesse Smith
Nathan Lawellin
Matthew Peak
Stephen Leadbetter
Richard Hurst
James Lesmeister
Jon Arnold

Jason Lewis

Health & Healing:

David Smith
Barbara Remillard
Terry Hoagland

Cancer Treatment:

Sonja Davidson
Tracy Bowman

Other Concerns:

K C Stewart
Mildred Fagan
Kayla & Kourtney Lesmeis-

ter

John Lesmeister
Austin Lewis
Richard Coulson
Thelma Paine
Merrie Fairchild
Bob Hicks