

Study Guide for the Week of February 10, 2008

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! Sermon manuscripts are available at www.spwired.com.

Monday, February 11 – What is faith? We often define it as trust in things that are real, but which cannot always be seen or proved in the scientific way. Because of this, knowledge or truth requires trust. When it comes to God, whether one believes in God or does not believe in God, the decision requires an element of faith. In the Bible the writer to the Hebrews offers a chapter known as the “faith chapter” in which he describes what faith is. The writer then gives a litany of stories and examples of people acting on faith. His point is that the great heroes of the scripture all trusted in God (and experienced God), by faith, and they acted upon that faith. **Read Hebrews 11:1-12:3.**

Tuesday, February 12 – We learned in the message on Sunday that the Bible is filled with the stories of how different human beings have experienced God’s presence over the millennia. Note when the Psalmist experienced God according to this Psalm, and how this experience made the psalmist feel, and what his ultimate conclusion about God was. **Read Psalm 8.**

Wednesday, February 13 – In today’s scripture reading Paul, the early Christian leader, is in the city of Athens (the year is around A.D. 50). He is speaking to philosophers. Listen to how he shares his faith with the people of Athens: **Read Acts 17:16-34.** What does Paul teach us about God? About people?

Thursday, February 14 – Happy Valentine’s Day! St. Valentine was an early Christian martyr (around A.D. 280). One legend has it that when the Roman emperor forbade marriage, believing that young men made better soldiers if they were not married, Father Valentine continued to secretly marry couples. For this he was jailed and killed. In honor of Valentine’s Day, **read the following passages about love: 1 Corinthians 13:1-8a, 13 and Colossians 3:12-14**

Friday, February 15 – We’ll end this week’s readings by studying some of the teachings of Jesus from his “Sermon on the Mount.” **Read Matthew 6:19-34.** How would you summarize what Jesus is saying in these passages? What would it mean to seek first the “kingdom of God?” **Read Matthew 7:24-27.** How is this passage true?