

Study Guide for the Week of February 17, 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 18 – As Americans, we have a rebellious streak in us. As a country we started as a rebellion against Great Brittan. We wanted our independence. Rebellion against authority is woven into our culture. Yet Aaron claimed Sunday that God always works through authority. And that God’s authority isn’t about dominance, but his desire for our own good. Jesus modeled submission for us. *Read Philippians 2:1-15.* What does this tell you about Jesus’ submission? What is the result of submitting to God’s authority?

Tuesday, February 19 – We may be more ready to submit to God’s authority than to human authority. But God often works through human authority which he has put into place. *Read Romans 13:1-2.* In what ways does this passage make you uncomfortable? In what was does it speak positively to you? Why do we often have authority issues with human institutions?

Wednesday, February 20 – Submission has a lot to do with humility. In our culture we often equate humility with weakness. Why? *Read James 4:10, 1 Peter 3:8-11, and 1 Peter 5:6-7.* What do these passages teach you about humility? How might having a humble spirit actually make you more powerful? More effective? More confident?

Thursday, February 21 – Aaron used an umbrella Sunday as a metaphor for getting under God’s authority. One of the benefits of that is enjoying an element of God’s protection. *Read Psalm 18:25-30.* This passage uses the word “refuge.” How does this passage speak to the state of humility, submission, guiding us to place of refuge? At what times in your life have you most longed for a refuge against difficulty? How might humility help in a situation like that?

Friday, February 22 – *Read Matthew 11:28-30.* The “yoke” this passage speaks about is the wooden harness an ox would wear so that it could pull a plow or a cart. When we put ourselves under the authority of God we choose to connect ourselves to his mission. We may think that is a burden that is painful, or too heavy to bear, but instead what does Jesus tell us? How does that burden become light? What is the result of putting ourselves under this “yoke” this authority?