

Study Guide for the Week of March 2, 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, March 3. Read Matthew 20:24-26 in the New Testament. Let's begin this week with our attempt to follow Jesus' model of power and authority. What is Jesus saying about the world's way of using power? How do you see that in your workplace, others, or yourself? What does Jesus direct his followers to do if they want to have real authority? Do you think Jesus' understanding of power can be effective? How do you see that kind of power in your workplace, family, others, or yourself?

Tuesday, March 4. Read Matthew 10:1-20 & Matthew 28:16-20 in the New Testament. Jesus wants us to receive his power and take it into the world through our actions. What does he ask his followers to do with his power? Do you believe that Jesus wants you to utilize his power? How can you do the things he asks his disciples to do? What does he warn them about? Why? How do you encounter the same kind of opposition when you choose to follow Jesus' model?

Wednesday, March 5. Read Acts 26:9-18 in the New Testament. Paul had placed his life under the "authorities" - those with the position of power - to persecute the followers of Jesus. Why did Paul submit to their authority? What led to his rebellion against that authority? What factors did Mark mention in the message about appropriate rebellion that you see in Paul's story? What spirit of rebellion is in you? What reasons do you have for your rebellious spots? Is your rebellion bringing positive reform or is it just "kicking against the goads?"

Thursday, March 6. Pray before you read today for the eyes to see what this scripture is trying to tell us. **Read Ephesians 5:1, 21-33 in the New Testament.** Men, if you think this is about power of position, then pray some more! Women, if you think this is about mindless, blind submission, then read again. The key to understanding is to refer back to the model of Jesus' authority from the message this week. How is this passage addressing mutual sacrifice, selflessness, respect, and love in the marriage relationship? Is there a greater burden on one gender that is above the other? Think and pray about changes you should initiate in your relationship of marriage (if applicable to you) to create the unity described in this passage.

Friday, March 7. Read Matthew 16:24-26 in the New Testament. This passage gets to the crux of what it means to follow Jesus, to submit your life to his authority. How have you found Jesus' words about saving and losing your life to be true. In what ways do you find yourself rebelling against Jesus' authority? Why? How is it true that life comes through submission to him? Have you ever regretted submitting anything to Jesus? What was your response to the invitation in worship this week to take the next step in submission to him?