

Study Guide for the Week of March 9, 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 10 – Read Psalm 119:105. Take the time to memorize this passage and where it's found in the Bible. How might God's word be a light to the path of your life? What happens if we wander from that light?

Tuesday, March 11 – Read 2 Timothy 3:14-17 in the New Testament. The phrase "God-breathed" means "inspired by God." The writer is saying that scripture is God speaking! What does this passage say we gain from the scriptures (see verse 15)? What does this passage say that the scriptures are "useful" for? Has scripture done any of these things for you?

Wednesday, March 12 – Read Psalm 1:1-3 in the Old Testament. This is a beautiful metaphor for those who meditate upon God's law. Remember that "the law" was a name for the scriptures at that time and not just a list of rules. Yielding fruit in season, having protection from withering heat and prospering are the results of meditating on God's word. To meditate upon it means to read, seek understanding, listen for the living voice of God and apply what you hear to your own life. How often do you do these things? Why not begin now? Roll this passage (or Monday's passage) around in your mind, look at it from every angle. Does it speak to you differently the more you look at it?

Thursday, March 13 – Read Matthew 4:4 in the New Testament. The verb in this passage is in the present tense and means, "is continually coming out of the mouth of God." It is like a stream pouring forth. The point is that God continually wants to communicate with his people. The primary way he communicates with us is through the Bible. Notice that Jesus is saying that we are nourished by God's word; that without it we will not survive. This passage reminds us that reading God's word should be a part of our regular "diet." If it is a part of your regular diet, how did it become so? If it is not, what is preventing you from allowing it to be so? Aaron talked about us being people of diet and exercise. What did he mean by this?

Friday, March 14 – Read Hebrews 4:12 in the New Testament. In this passage we see that the word of God has great power. It has the power to pierce all our defenses and get through to our hearts. Sometimes we do not want to read the Bible for fear that it might do just that—cut through our defenses. But there is no substitute for what God's word can do. It sets us free, shows us where we fall short, offers us hope, provides comfort, challenges us to be generous, reveals the power of love, shows us the characteristics of a true follower, offers us healing and is living connection to God. What has the Bible been for you in the past? What can it be for you in the future? Are you ready to respond to what God might say to you through his word? The Bible is the greatest gift we could have, but we must open it. Make a commitment to begin doing this!