

Study Guide for the Week of July 13, 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! Message manuscripts are available at www.spwired.com.

Monday—Read Psalm 23:1-3 and Romans 8:12-14. What do these passages teach you about God's desire and willingness to lead us, if we're willing to follow? **Read Psalm 119:104-106, John 16:12-15, James 1:2-5.** How do you discern God's leading in your life? Name some things that might interfere with your connection and make it hard to hear God's voice?

Tuesday—Read Matthew 5:29-30 and 1 Peter 5:8-9. What images are used in these verses to show us how seriously we need to take temptation and sin? **Read Romans 14:20-23 and James 1:12-16.** How do you decide if some attitude or activity would be sin for you? What's the difference between rationalizing in the face of temptation and honestly determining that a particular choice is not spiritually harmful to you?

Wednesday—Read Galatians 5:22-26. What direction does God want our lives to take? What forces work within us to resist this direction? **Read Romans 6:20-23 and John 3:17-19.** Do you think that sin—in your life or someone else's—is no big deal? How do you face your own moral choices without becoming judgmental or condemning to others?

Thursday—Read John 10:2-5, 11-15. Identify a situation in your life where it is particularly difficult for you to follow Jesus (e.g. in the office, in traffic, watching TV, etc). What would you change so that you can stay more attuned to the voice of the Good Shepherd?

Friday—Read Luke 9:23-25 and Hebrews 12:1-4. Sometimes it's very clear what God is asking of us, but we just don't want to do it. Is there a "sticking point" in your life, something that feels really costly and painful to even think about changing? If so, open yourself to the message of these Scriptures and wrestle things out with God.