

Study Guide for the Week of July 27, 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 Acts 18:1-18. How would you describe Paul's method of starting new churches? What verbs are used to describe Paul's gospel communication? How did Jesus encourage Paul?

Tuesday—Read 1 Corinthians 1:1-17. What seems to be the nature of the conflict in Corinth? What's Paul's answer to the problem of division? In what ways does this problem exist in churches today? **Read 1 Corinthians 1:18-31.** How do some people perceive the message of the cross? For Paul, what was God's motivation for choosing the weak and foolish things?

Wednesday—Read 1 Corinthians 2:1-5. What did Paul want people's faith to be based upon? How might this text be relevant for us today? **Read 1 Corinthians 2:6-16.** What is the nature of Paul's wisdom for people who have a level of spiritual maturity? What roles does the Holy Spirit play in our gaining of wisdom? What might you do to become more "spiritually mature"?

Thursday—Read 1 Corinthians 3:1-23. By what standard does Paul declare the Corinthian Christians to be "worldly"? How does Paul use a construction image? What does Paul mean when he asks readers to become "fools" in order to become wise?

Friday—Read 1 Corinthians 4:1-21. How does Paul expect people to think of the Apostles? In verses 8-13 Paul describes the life of an Apostle as one of rejection, homelessness, and hunger. Could this be true? If God were taking job applications for these kinds of Apostles today, would you apply? Why or why not?