

Study Guide

For the Week of March 1, 2009

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 Mark 14:12-26. This will give you a starting point and overview for our study of the Last Supper. Look over your notes from yesterday's message. What did you learn about the Last Supper? Ponder each of the points of the message. How was God trying to speak to you through the message and the scriptures outlining the Last Supper?

Tuesday – Today we will study the Passover. This is important – Jesus chooses to come to Jerusalem for the Passover. He knows he will be killed during this feast, and it seemed important to him that his death occur in conjunction with the Passover. **Read Exodus 12.** What are the parallels between the Passover and Jesus' death, between the Passover meal and the Eucharist? What are the differences? How was Jesus like the Passover lamb? How was he different? At the Last Supper Jesus transformed the Passover Seder and commanded that his followers partake of this meal to commemorate and remember his death until he comes again (we'll see the command in tomorrow's readings). Pray and thank God for what he has done for you in Jesus Christ.

Wednesday – In one early church the Lord's Supper had digressed into something which Paul had to correct. Paul is setting them straight about how the Lord's Supper was to be celebrated. **Read I Corinthians 11:17-33.** Note verses 25 and 26 contain the idea of the Lord's Supper as something which looks back, at what Jesus did in giving his life for us, but it also looks ahead to his second coming. Recall that Christians believe the Passover Seder did the same – it looked back at the deliverance of the Jews from slavery, but it also pointed ahead to what God would do in Jesus. Paul warns against eating unworthily – what do you think this means? How can you better prepare yourself for receiving the Lord's Supper at church?

Thursday – John's gospel is the only one to give a lengthy account of what Jesus teaches at the Last Supper. Almost one-fourth of the Gospel of John is devoted to the Last Supper and what Jesus said there. Today and tomorrow you'll read a few of the things he said at this meal as recorded by John. These are Jesus' final words to his friends. **Read John 13:1-17.** What does this mean for you, today? Pray that you might do this.

Friday – Today we will continue our readings from John's account of the things Jesus taught at the Last Supper. **Read John 14:1-4.** What does this tell us about how the disciples were feeling that night? How does this point to the future dimension of the Lord's Supper – looking ahead and not just backwards? In the passage you are about to read Jesus is teaching about the Christian life. **Read John 15:1-6** – what does it mean for the branch to remain connected to the vine? What is Jesus trying to teach us about the spiritual life? How do you "remain in him"? **Read John 15:9-17.** What does he command of us? This is the greatest evidence of the Christian life. Notice Jesus calls his disciples friends – Jesus needed friends who were spiritual companions. Do you have such friends? Are you in a small group? Who would you invite to pray for you and encourage you in your faith at your last supper?

Prayer Concerns

Serving in Iraq:

Cyle Haywood (non-military)
Ryan Grindstaff

Military:

Jesse Smith
Nathan Lawellin
Matthew Peak
Stephen Leadbetter
Richard Hurst
James Lesimeister
Jon Arnold
Jason Lewis
Joshua Walker

Health & Healing:

Don McCoy
Carrol & Jr. Skelton
Hope Shields
Gerald Sullivan
Jean Ann Sheets
Maryann Farni

Cancer Treatment:

Sonja Davidson
Tracy Bowman
Tandy Aumun
Andrew Orłowski

Other Concerns:

Terry Hoagland
Bill Pierson
William Norris
Edna & Ervin Dill
Patrick & Bobbi Hamilton & Family
Carol Brockman
Nancy Wilkins
Keith & Cheryl Costley and Family
James Lesmeister
Kourtney Leismeister
Mary Soriano
Alex Soriano