

# Study Guide

## For the Week of March 8, 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](http://www.spwired.com).

This week we'll study the trial of Jesus by the Sanhedrin and Peter's denial of Jesus from all of the gospels. You'll have a chance to notice the similarities but also the differences in the different gospel accounts. This may seem repetitious, but each day read the story with fresh eyes. Look for the differences like a detective. Ask what the differences teach, how they complete the story.

**Monday** – Take a piece of notepaper, turn it sideways and make four columns. At the top of each column write the name of a different gospel: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. As you do each day's study guide reading note the unique characteristics or the insights you have gained from reading that particular gospel's account of the trial of Jesus by the Sanhedrin and Peter's denial of Christ. You will find there are many similarities, but also a few differences. Let's begin with Matthew's account. **Read Matthew 26:57-75.** Look over your notes from Sunday's message. How are we modern people like the Jewish Sanhedrin? What does it take for evil to triumph? What do you think it would have been like to have been in the room that day? Why did they beat and spit on Jesus? How does the account of Peter's denial make you feel? Can you identify with Peter?

**Tuesday** – Using your paper from yesterday, write down the details of Mark's account of the trial and Peter's denial, noting the differences. **Read Mark 14:53-72.** Why did they blindfold Jesus as they were preparing to strike him? Look at the response of Jesus when he was on the "witness stand" – what did his words in verse 62 mean? Jesus draws from Exodus 3:14, Psalm 110 and Daniel 7:13 and following. Look up these scriptures and see if you can tell why Jesus responded to the high priest by making allusions to these passages. What does Jesus' testimony tell us about how he understood his ministry?

**Wednesday** – Write down on your notepaper the similarities and differences between Luke's account of the trial before the Sanhedrin and Mark and Matthew's accounts. **Read Luke 22:54-71.** It's easy to pick on Peter but how much courage did it take for him to come into the courtyard with the guards who had arrested Jesus? Notice, Luke tells us Jesus looked at Peter the moment Peter denied Jesus the third time. Imagine this look across the courtyard. How do you see this in your mind's eye?

**Thursday** – Note the similarities and differences between the four gospel accounts of this event. **Read John 18:12-27.** John mentions two trials – one before the former high priest, Annas and a second before the sitting high priest, Caiaphas. Put all of this information together from your study to get a comprehensive picture of what happened. Reflect again upon the reasons two high priests called for Jesus' death.

**Friday** – Let's see how the story of Peter's denial of Jesus is resolved. **Read John 21:15-19.** This takes place after the resurrection. How many times does Jesus ask about Peter's love? What is the significance of this? What did this story mean to Peter? To you?

## Prayer Concerns

### Serving in Iraq:

Cyle Haywood  
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  
Opal Price  
Myril Stewart  
Steve Weatherby  
Dan Stewart

### Cancer Treatment:

Sonja Davidson  
Tracy Bowman  
Tandy Aumen  
Rose Hymer  
Vickie Sweet

### Grief:

The family of **Marion Wheatley**

### Other Concerns:

Terry Hoagland  
Mary Soriano  
Alex Soriano  
Kayla & Kourtney Lesmeister  
Doug Kennard  
Arturo Lara  
Andrew & Adrian Lara  
Tucker & Emily Edmonson  
Alan & Amy Robertson  
Laura Karch  
Chris Geer  
Confirmands and Mentors  
Tameca Moody