

Study Guide for the Week of April 22, 2007

This study guide is designed to help you to become more familiar with the Bible. For 2007 the study guide will help you read through the New Testament in a year. 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, April 23. Read Acts 9:26-43. Here we see instances in the life of both Paul and Peter. Paul's conversion to Christianity caused a great deal of danger for him in Jerusalem. But that does not stop him from teaching others about Jesus. Notice that as Peter heals Aeneas he points to the true source of his power in saying, "Jesus Christ heals you." Peter did not say, "I heal you." Why is this distinction important? This week we'll also read some passages that relate to Sunday's message. **Read Proverbs 6:9-11.** This passage describes the result of failing to take initiative. What is that result?

Tuesday, April 24. Read Acts 10:1-33. This chapter tells about one of the key turning points of the early church. For the first time a Gentile (a non-Jew) becomes a part of the Church. Peter boldly goes where a Jew would not normally ever go--into the house of a non-Jew. In this we see the love of Christ moving beyond Judaism into the rest of the world. Why is this important? What would have happened if Peter and Paul did not move beyond the Judaism that they knew? **Read Proverbs chapter 31.** This whole chapter describes a woman who takes initiative in every aspect of life. The passage describes her as worth far more than precious gems. How does she take initiative in the five areas that Aaron talked about? (refer back to the Outline from Sunday).

Wednesday, April 25. Read Acts 10:34-48. Peter gives a speech about Jesus and about what happened to lead him to that time and place. What is the result of Peter sharing the story of Jesus? This is similar to what happened on the day of Pentecost, except in this case those who were filled with the Holy Spirit and baptized were Gentiles instead of Jews. **Read Proverbs 6:6-8.** This describes the ant's work ethic. What can we learn from the ant?

Thursday, April 26. Read Acts 11:1-18. Peter is called to explain his activities to leaders of the Jewish Christians. They question him associating with Gentiles. Peter retells what happened. What is the reaction of those Jewish believers? **Read Colossians 3:23 in the New Testament.** Sometimes we are prone to "selective sluggardliness." Tackling these areas of life is very important. If we do identify an area that needs some diligence and initiative, it can sometimes mean that we'll have to eliminate something else in order to give time and attention to our area of selective sluggardliness. How can we go about deciding what we should eliminate so we can give our efforts to something else that is more important? What would that mean for you?

Friday, April 27. Read Acts 11:19-30. We get another glimpse of the good news of Jesus Christ being spread to both Jews and Gentiles. The span of time we see between Paul's conversion and this point in time is about nine years. During that time Paul was in his home town no doubt teaching about Jesus. It is at this point that the disciples in Jerusalem send for Paul to begin his travels. Paul is now ready to take on his bigger mission. Remember that our church is named after him. How might we become more like him?

Saturday, April 28. Read Acts chapter 12. We see new wave of persecution happening. King Herod begins to hunt down the disciples to make himself more popular with the people. Jewish historians give a similar account of Herod's death. What does this passage tell you about God? About human beings? About yourself?

Sunday, April 29. Read Acts 13:1-25. This begins Paul's first missionary journey to lead people to an active faith in Jesus Christ and start churches. The leg of this journey to Pisidian was a road through a mountain range that was the most difficult to travel in Asia Minor. It was also know to be dangerous because of thieves and robbers. Paul, Barnabas and John Mark make this difficult journey to share the good news of Jesus Christ. What about Paul's speech speaks to you? Why?