

Study Guide for the Week of August 19, 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, August 20. Read John 4:27-42. The disciples return from buying some food and see Jesus talking to a woman. This was highly irregular for a Jewish man to do. The woman, who had been divorced 5 times, had encountered life in meeting Jesus and she went back to tell the people of her village. What does it tell us about Jesus that he gave this woman a new beginning? What does it tell us that Jesus sent her to carry his good news back to her village? What is the result?

Tuesday, August 21. Read John 4:43-54. In this healing story a royal official comes to Jesus, a traveling carpenter, to ask that he heal his son. This royal official had to swallow his pride to make such a request. We see that this official would not be discouraged as Jesus tested his resolve. We see this official had faith in what Jesus said he would do. How can you live out similar qualities in your life in the face of difficulties? What about in the face of blessings?

Wednesday, August 22. Read John 5:1-18. As Jesus heals the man who had been sick for 38 years, he asks the sick man a potent question: "Do you want to be made well?" We can see here that it's essential for us to have the true desire to receive Christ's power. Jesus always cooperates with us in bringing change to our lives. If we don't really want to change, he will not force us. What is this man's response? Do you want to experience Christ's power? What fears might keep you from allowing that to happen?

Thursday, August 23. Read John 5:19-47. In these verses Jesus begins a discourse that points to him as the son of God and true Messiah. He talks about death and means not only physical death, but spiritual death as well. Spiritual death means to have stopped trying, thinking, feeling and repenting. Jesus is saying that he can bring a person back from spiritual death. Have you experienced any of these types of spiritual death? Spend time seeking God and inviting a resurrection within you.

Friday, August 24. Read John 6:1-24. In this feeding miracle notice the actions of Andrew. While Philip was cynical and skeptical, Andrew trusted. He essentially said, "I'll do what I can do to feed these people and trust that Jesus will do the rest." It was Andrew who brought the boy to Jesus. We never know what God will do when we bring someone to Jesus. The other person to notice is the boy himself. He didn't have much to offer in the face of such great need, but he gave what he had. His small offering provided for a very large miracle. What might happen if we responded more like the boy, giving what we have to take part in a larger miracle? What might happen if we responded like Andrew?

Saturday, August 25. Read John 6:25-59. Jesus speaks about himself as the bread of life? What does he mean by this? In what other ways besides Jesus do we try to satisfy our deepest hungers? Why do these other ways always leave us hungry?

Sunday, August 26. Read John 6:60-71. This is a turning point in the lives of those who were following Jesus at the time. What was so hard about what Jesus was teaching them? Why did some of them leave him at that point? Why did some stay? Where are you in this story? Why?