

Study Guide

For the Week of August 2, 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 Luke 19:1-10. The last verse of this passage was at the heart of this entire message series. It is Jesus' mission in one sentence. Copy this passage down and then rewrite it in your own words as a way to internalize its meaning. Remember that if we choose to follow Jesus, then his mission becomes our mission. Notice also the people who are about including others into God's good news and who try to exclude. How willing are you to include others who need to hear/experience the Good News?

Tuesday – Read Matthew 25:34-35. Jesus makes it very clear that to welcome someone is to welcome him. He used the phrase "invited me in". Into what places and spaces of our lives do you think Jesus wants us to invite others? Homes, hearts, worship, small group, etc. How's your welcome?

Wednesday – Read John 4:1-26. Because the woman at the well was known to have had many husbands and was not married to the man she was living with, she may have been ostracized by many people. In fact, some people may have decided that she was too far from God to have any hope, but not Jesus. He interacts with her, answers her questions, then focuses on her deep spiritual thirst. Even for people who have been saying "no" to God for a very long time, we must not say "no" for them. Instead we hold out hope, we never stop inviting, we believe that God loves lost people and we should too. Are there people in your life that you have said "no" for assuming that they would never accept an invitation to worship or some other event?

Thursday – Read John 4:27-38. Look carefully at Jesus' statement about the harvest being ripe. He's telling his disciples that many, many, many people are simply waiting to be asked to follow him. They are ready to hear good news. What was true then, is just as true today. There are many people who are only an invitation away from beginning, or restarting, a relationship with God. And Jesus would say to us, what he said to his disciples, "open your eyes and look at the fields." 65,000,000 Americans said they would attend church if only a friend invited them. Who do you know that might be among those 65,000,000 people? What is keeping you from inviting? What might be the result if you did invite them?

Friday – Read John 4:39-42 in the New Testament. This is the result of Jesus' conversation with the woman at the well. Notice what she does. Notice what she says. Notice the responses of the people who came out to meet with Jesus. What does this story teach us about the power of making an invitation? What two families or individuals might God be leading you to invite?