

Study Guide for the Week of August 26, 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 27. Read John 7:1-24. Some disciples want Jesus to make a big show of himself at a religious festival. What is Jesus' response? He goes secretly but still has an encounter with the religious leaders. What happens there? **Read Genesis chapters 1 and 2.** Here you see the two creation stories. How are they similar? How are they different?

Tuesday, August 28. Read John 7:25-53. Jesus teaches and some believe in him while others try to arrest him? Notice that after he teaches they debate about where Jesus comes from and whether or not he can be the Messiah. What a tragedy! Jesus is not someone to argue about; he is someone to know and love and enjoy. Why did people miss this? **Read Leviticus chapter 11.** This is a section of ancient Hebrew law. Such laws about food set the Israelites apart from the surrounding people. Why was this important?

Wednesday, August 29. Read John 8:1-20. In the beginning of this section we see an attempt to trap Jesus. The woman in the story was caught in the act of adultery, a crime punishable by death. How does Jesus respond? What does he tell the men who are about to kill her? What does he tell the woman? What does this tell us about God? **Read 2 Samuel 5.** This is from one of the historical books of the Old Testament. What do you learn here about the history of Israel?

Thursday, August 30. Read John 8:21-47. Jesus is being confronted by the religious leaders. They continue to try to trap him and discredit him, especially as more and more people believe in him. Look at verses 31-32. One of Jesus' defining messages was that of freedom. How does truth set us free? What truth was Jesus speaking about? **Read Psalm 116.** The Psalms are the songs of ancient Israel. This is a song of thankfulness for healing. The Psalms touch on every human emotion. What do you see expressed here? How might you pray this Psalm?

Friday, August 31. Read John 8:48-59. Jesus escapes being stoned to death by an angry group of religious leaders. What made them angriest was when he said, "Before Abraham was, I am." The phrase "I am" is the name God called himself to Moses. When Jesus said this, he was claiming to be God. That is what set off the violent reaction. What does this tell you about the religious leaders? About Jesus? About you? **Read The Song of Solomon Chapter 1.** This is a beautiful example of poetry in the Old Testament. This entire book is a poem of deep love and attraction.

Saturday, September 1. Read John 9:1-23. It was a common belief at that time that all suffering was related to sin. Jesus heals him in an unusual way. In the Gospel of John the healing miracles point to God's glory and power. The response of the religious leaders is tragic. Instead of celebrating this man's healing and God's love and power, they heap abuse on the poor man and scare his parents. Why could they not see Jesus for what he really was? What are you not seeing? **Read Isaiah chapter 53.** Isaiah was a prophet who gave warnings to the people of Israel when they started to stray. He also gave them hope of a time of renewal. Chapter 53 has been read by Christians as pointing to Jesus Christ. Do you see him described here?

Sunday, September 2. Read John 9:24-41. In this section we see one of Jesus' most direct claims to the Son of God, the Messiah. Jesus is showing us that God cares about both physical and spiritual blindness. How do we become spiritually blind? What can we do about spiritual blindness to reverse it? **Read Malachi chapter 3.** This is the last book in the Old Testament and it was seen by early Christians as pointing to the arrival of the Messiah, Jesus. It is another example of the prophets in the Old Testament.