

Study Guide

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 Acts 17:24-28. What does this passage tell you about God's desire for us to search for him, to ask questions? Are there lingering questions you have had about God, faith, Christianity, but were afraid to ask? Why? Send them to Aaron at stpauls@joplin.com.

Tuesday—Read Genesis 1:1-5 in the Old Testament. This is the beginning of one of the creation stories in the Bible (read the whole chapter if you have time today). Prior to the Big Bang theory, science believed that the universe was static—that it had no beginning point. The Big Bang is actually a step toward our religious belief. When the Big Bang theory was proposed in the 1940's, science, for the first time was saying that there was a very definite beginning. Christians believe this to be a moment when God said, "Let there be light." This is an example where science is converging with religion. One physicist, Dr. Michael Guillen, says that the accounts of creation in Genesis are almost step-by-step in perfect agreement with theories of the development of the universe. How do you see God in creation today?

Wednesday—Read Psalm 139:1-16 in the Old Testament. This Psalm speaks of God's presence in all things and all places. It is also a passage that illustrates that the God that created this vast universe also knows each of us individually. He has created you uniquely and you are fearfully and wonderfully made. What does it mean to you that God lovingly handcrafted you? What does it mean to you that no matter where you go, God is there?

Thursday—Read Psalm 8 in the Old Testament. In this chapter of the Bible we are given an example of how we can praise God for the awe and majesty of the universe. Not only is the beauty of the universe awe inspiring but the fact that God created human beings to be a little lower than himself is also praiseworthy. Do you regularly give God praise and stand in awe of the created beauty of life? Spend a few moments now reflecting on the beauty of our world and universe. Spend a few moments reflecting on what it means that you were created a little lower than God.

Friday—Read Romans 1:18-20 in the New Testament. This passage teaches us that God wants to be known through his creation and that he expects us to see him in creation. How can we see God in the natural beauty of the world? How have you seen God in the natural beauty of the world? How can you be more intentional about looking for God in the world?

Prayer Concerns

Serving in the military:

As our list of those serving in the military has grown, we will honor them by placing their names on the Military Board in the east hallway after listing new names here for one week. Please check that board regularly.

Health & Healing

Jr. & Carrol Skelton
James Remillard
Susie Hicks
Terry Newman
Steve Wampler
J. Don Book

Shalea Purdy

Cancer Treatment:

Tom Feltenberger
Rose Hymer
Dottie Maloney
Easton Murdock
Joey Walker
Bob Benefiel

Other Concerns:

Ron Nealy
Tammy Hodgson & Family