

Study Guide

For the Week of August 9, 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 – This week we'll be looking at scriptures from which we draw our core values as a church. Our first core value is that people matter to God—all people. And God would have us see all people the way he sees them and treat all people with dignity, love and a servant's heart whether or not they believe the same way we do. **Read John 3:16-17.** What is the bottom line in this passage? How does God's love relate to the presence of Jesus for humanity? **Read Philippians 2:5-8.** How does this passage demonstrate God's love for all people? How can we live in such a way that we see others (and ourselves) as God sees them, and love them as God loves them?

Tuesday – Our second core value is that we must reach out to people and not wait for people to come to us. **Read Matthew 9:35-38 and Matthew 28:16-20.** What do these passages say about us going to people with the Good News of Jesus rather than waiting for them to come to us? How are we living this out as a church? How are you living it out personally? What could we do better? What could you do better? **Read Luke 10:19.** A few weeks ago we looked at this passage in our Study Guide pointing out that this is Jesus' mission. But as his followers, his mission becomes our mission. How does this mission relate to the second core value?

Wednesday – Our third core value is that God's word is God's living voice. God speaks to us primarily as we listen to him through scripture. This is to be our guide in our structure as a congregation, our teaching, and the foundation of our individual lives. **Read Psalm 119:105 and 2 Timothy 3:16-17.** This core belief is why we're each encouraged to spend time in the scriptures each day. What do we miss out on if we're not in God's word regularly?

Thursday – Our fourth core value is that life is meant to be done together. We need each other to encourage us, challenge us, pray with and for us, serve along side us, and hold us accountable. This happens when we regularly join together with a small group of others and commit to being there for one another. **Read Hebrews 10:25, Galatians 6:2 and 1 Corinthians 12.** What do these passages teach about being together and our need for one another? How important is this to our church? To you? How might you need to make progress on this?

Friday – Our fifth core value is that living out our mission is to be done with consuming joy! Life will always present us with pain and difficulties, but because of the power and presence of God in our lives there can be joy that overwhelms the deepest darkness. Serving God is a joy. Learning about God's purposes is a joy. And growing into the people God has called us to be is the greatest joy of all. **Read Luke 2:10-14.** The arrival of Jesus was meant to be a sign of good news of great joy! Not just joy at his birth, but joy because through him, his life, his teachings, his death and resurrection, we can have purpose, direction, hope—all of which fuel our joy. **Read John 15:10-11.** What might complete joy look like in your life? **Read Galatians 5:22-23.** Notice that joy is one of the fruits of the Spirit. In other words, it's one of the things that God brings when we allow him to take up residence in our lives. How have you experienced this? If you have not experienced it, how might you allow God to work more within you?