

Study Guide

For the Week of December 29, 2008

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 **Matthew 2:1-12**. In what ways are you anxious to put the Christmas season behind you. What does their pursuit of worshiping Jesus teach you about your faith? What does this story tell us about God's heart for the whole world? How does this story help you carry the experience of Christmas worship, but not the exasperation of the Christmas season, throughout the year?

Tuesday— Read **Isaiah 60:1-7, 61:10-62:3**. What connections do you see between these passages in Isaiah and the story of the Magi from yesterday? The passages from Isaiah portray a fully restored creation with Israel fulfilling her role as God's light to the world. How does this picture relate to the Magi coming to worship Jesus?

Wednesday—Read **Psalms 147**. The Magi teach us about worship. Turn today's reading into a time of worship. How does the Psalmist describe worship in verses 1, 5, 7, and 12? How is God described in verse 3? What wounds or brokenness need healing in you? Do you think God wants to do something about them, based on this psalm?

Thursday— Read **Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7**. Extending the meaning of Christmas means that we need to move from the history of Jesus' birth to the meaning of His coming. Paul tells us that the purpose of the law was not to maintain a relationship with God, but to drive us toward God's Savior. How does Paul describe the relationship we have through the Savior?

Friday—Read **John 1:1-18**. John's gospel does not begin with birth stories of shepherds and Magi, but with the cosmic Christ as creator and Lord. Compare and contrast this story with Matthew 1:18-2:12 and Luke 2:1-18. How does John describe (and for what reasons) Christ's coming into the world? What was the world's response? What is your response (see vs. 12)?

Prayer Concerns

Serving in Iraq:

Curtis Phillips
Cyle Haywood (non-military)

Military:

Jesse Smith
Nathan Lawellin
Matthew Peak
Stephen Leadbetter
Richard Hurst
James Lesmeister
Jon Arnold
Jason Lewis

Health & Healing:

Jr. Skelton
Carrol Skelton
Danny Lowe
Troy Dingman
Candy Speer
Anna Jean Dye

Terry Hoagland

Cancer Treatment:

Sonja Davidson
Tracy Bowman
Gisela Goodwin
Jean Williams

Grieving:

The family of **Mary K. Washburn** at her death
The family of **Gisela Goodwin** at her death

Other Concerns:

Edna & Ervin Dill
Patrick & Bobbie Hamilton & Family
Jason Lewis
Ron & Leah Lewis
Glenna & Macy Smith
Tracy Merano
Arlene Rohde

Sharon Divine

Hannah Cranor
Alexis Thompson
Brooklyn & Luke Cranor & Britany
Freddie & Jim McGee
Luke & Andrea Fields
Corrine Purdy
Gene Hirshey
Teresa Cooper
Tammy Comer
Bob Hicks
James Lesmeister
Austin Lewis
Holly Page
Merrie Fairchild
Pamela Lewis