

# Study Guide

**For the Week of February 15, 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](http://www.spwired.com).*

**MONDAY—Read Genesis 4:1-15.** This is the story of Cain and Abel. Why does Cain kill Abel? What is his reaction when asked about his brother? Notice what God does to Cain. He sends him away, but he also marks him **to protect him**. What does this tell you about God? Notice that God reinforces the protection of Cain by saying that any one who hurts him will be avenged seven times. **Read Genesis 4:23-24.** This is one man's reaction to a hurt that he suffered at the hand of another. Have you ever wanted to dole out justice seventy-seven times the pain you experienced? Why do we want to retaliate with such extremes when we're hurt?

**TUESDAY—Read Romans 12:16-21.** How does this contrast with the passages from Genesis that you read yesterday? This passage speaks of several things, allowing God to be the one to administer justice, and making sure we do our part in living at peace and forgiving others. What in this passage is the hardest thing for you do?

**WEDNESDAY—Read Matthew 18:23-35.** The story that Jesus tells in this passage is almost "ripped from the headlines." Jesus is speaking about forgiveness and to illustrate his point he tells a story of embezzlement. How is this story similar to what we have seen in corporate America recently? Do you find Jesus' words in verses 34 and 35 hard to swallow? Why do they seem so harsh to us? Is he exaggerating?

**THURSDAY—Read Romans 12:16-21.** How does this contrast with the passages from Genesis that you read on Monday? This passage speaks of several things, humility, harmony, allowing God to be the one to administer justice, etc. Go back over these verses and see where you could improve. Do you allow God to be the one to avenge injustices in your life or do you take that into your own hands? Have you ever prayed for people who have hurt you? What does this passage say happens to those who have hurt us and we pray for them? Memorize verse 21, a powerful verse. What in this passage is the hardest thing for you do?

**FRIDAY—Read Matthew 6:14-15.** Jesus himself spoke these powerful words on forgiveness. Write these verses out in your own words. To understand the cost that Jesus paid for your forgiveness, and why it's so important that we pass along that forgiveness, **read Matthew 27:27-40.** This passage describes how Jesus was mocked, beaten, humiliated and then crucified. This was the price he paid for your forgiveness. And this is why Jesus is so adamant that we pass that forgiveness on to others. When we fail to forgive others, we are pushing away the painful sacrifice he made for us. Is there anyone you have not forgiven? Is there someone you hurt and need to apologize to? Find a way to do that right now.

## Prayer Concerns

### Serving in Iraq:

Cyle Haywood (non-military)  
Ryan Grindstaff  
Bradley Phillips

### Military:

Jesse Smith  
Nathan Lawellin  
Matthew Peak  
Stephen Leadbetter  
Richard Hurst  
James Lesimeister  
Jon Arnold  
Jason Lewis  
Joshua Walker

### Health & Healing:

Don McCoy  
Carrol Skelton  
Jr. Skelton  
Bill & Betty Pierson  
Marlene Cogbill and Family  
Brett & Amy Laxton  
Gina Gooch

### Cancer Treatment:

Sonja Davidson  
Tracy Bowman

### Other Concerns:

Diana Hataway

Erdene Gooch  
Terry Geisz  
Terry Hoagland  
Austin Spurlin  
Shawnda Purdy & Family  
Ashley & Brian Williams  
Sandra Bemis  
Judy Rawlings  
Victor Rawlings  
Mary Soriano  
Alex Soriano  
Gayle Mooer  
Maureen D'Emico  
Mary Ann Farni