

Study Guide for the Week of February 19, 2006

Contagious...part 2. How to Use Your Mouth...

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! Sermon manuscripts are available at www.saintpauls-umc.com.

Monday – Read Romans 10:12-17. In this passage Paul is writing with great passion about the need for people who are far from God, in this case the Gentiles, to hear about Jesus. While demonstrating **compassion** for others is essential in sharing our faith, people must also **hear** about Jesus with our words. Look again at verse 17. People will see Christ in our compassionate actions, but they will meet him through our words. What are your thoughts about sharing your faith with someone else? Many people fear doing this, but when it is an extension of a friendship it flows naturally. If you have fears regarding being contagious with your mouth, pray about that and ask God for strength and an opportunity to share. Practice the graphic that Aaron taught on Sunday.

Tuesday – Read 2 Corinthians chapter 4. This passage is rich with insight into why we are contagious about the good news of Jesus Christ. Notice that it makes clear that we are to in no way use pressure or falsely use God's word. But we use an openness to God's word. This passage also lets us know that as we share some people simply will not see Christ. For a variety of reasons this will happen. Sometimes we might not be the right one to share with them, or the time might not be right, or they might have a barrier of sin that needs to come down. Whatever the case may be, we still share that good news. Sharing the faith is like letting light shine (vs. 6). Paul's reference to clay jars that hold a treasure is a reminder that, like the ordinary clay jars used in that time for carrying and storing things, we are ordinary people, but we carry in us the treasure that is Jesus. Our challenge is to share that treasure. How was the faith shared with you? How might you share with someone else?

Wednesday – Read 1 Corinthians 9:19-24. In this passage Paul is sharing how he always looks for common ground when he is with someone who is far from God. Some might look at this passage and say that Paul was not being himself, or that he was faking being something he was not. But actually he was allowing some part of him that had common ground with another person to shine through, so that through that commonality he might be able to share something about Jesus. How might you do the same? Practice the graphic Aaron used for sharing your faith? Have you practiced on someone who is a believer?

Thursday – Read Romans 12:1-2 in the New Testament. Offering God our bodies as living sacrifices means that we surrender all of who we are and what we have so that God can use us and our resources to fulfill the plans he has for us. The renewing of our minds that this talks about is what allows us to live consistent, godly lives for the long haul. Use this passage as a prayer to God. Let it guide you in surrendering your life and let it be an invitation for God to transform you by the renewing of your mind. Repeat this prayer several times and allow God some time to speak to you.

Friday – Read Matthew 28:16-20 in the New Testament. This is called the great commission. Here Jesus gives all Christians their marching orders which are essentially to **go** to those who are not Christians, **make disciples** (teach others about Jesus), baptize (include others in the fellowship). What can you do to live out these things to go, teach, and include others in the family of faith? How did you get involved in this family of faith? Can you do the same for someone else?