

Study Guide

For the Week of February 22, 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—Read Psalms chapter 23. This passage begins our week to set a stage of **abiding** with God. What images in this passage do you find comforting? The image of shepherd has been a reassuring image for ages. **Read John 10:11-15.** Here Jesus describes himself as the good shepherd. Again there is a sense of abiding with God in his love as we allow him to guide us and protect us. Is this image of Jesus as the good shepherd comforting to you?

TUESDAY—“Be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord” (1 Corinthians 15:58, NKJV). Reread this passage taking note of the word “abounding”. Some translation use the words “excel in” or “overflowing with”. Aaron spoke about how we are made in God’s image therefore we work and create as God works and creates. Work is a part of our lives. Do you see the work you do as an extension of your faith? Is it an accurate reflection of the image of Christ in you? Sometimes we worship our jobs, giving them first allegiance in our lives. What is wrong with this?

WEDNESDAY—Read 2 Timothy 4:6-8. Paul worked hard. He “abounded” in the work of God. But even Paul, as driven as he was by his mission, took time to rest. What do you think Paul meant in this passage when he says that he has been poured out, fought the fight, finished the race? If you are able, do an internet search of the words “Hurry sickness.” You will see things that may convince you that there must be a balance between work and rest. You might also want to search the internet for the phrase, “Type A personality test” and take a test to see how you relate to work.

THURSDAY—Read John 15:4-8. This is a powerful word picture. Reread this passage and picture it in your mind. Jesus is the main branch that supplies life to the other smaller branches. If those smaller branches, which represent us, remove themselves, they wither and die. This abiding in Christ happens when we draw near to him in times of solitude, in times of worship, in small group settings. How balanced are these in your life? Try a few minutes of silence right now, simply drawing near to God and allowing God to draw near to you to nourish your soul.

FRIDAY—Read Matthew 11:28-30. As you reread this passage remember the tension that Aaron talked about on Sunday. The tension between abounding in God’s works and abiding, resting, in God’s love. When we draw near to Christ we find rest for our souls. **Read Mark 1:35-39.** Notice in this passage that Jesus himself spent time both abounding in work and abiding in rest. How can you emulate him?

Prayer Concerns

Serving in Iraq:

Cyle Haywood (non-military)
Ryan Grindstaff

Military:

Jesse Smith
Nathan Lawellin
Matthew Peak
Stephen Leadbetter
Richard Hurst
James Lesimeister

Jon Arnold
Jason Lewis

Joshua Walker

Health & Healing:

Gerald Sullivan
Trey Pittsenbarger
Merrie Fairchild

Cancer Treatment:

Sonja Davidson
Tracy Bowman
Joyce Pace
Tony Allen

Other Concerns:

Diana Hataway
Erdene Gooch
Terry Geisz
Terry Hoagland
Ashley Williams

Purdy Family
Edna & Ervin Dill
Patrick & Bobbi Hamilton & Family

Brenda Brock
Kathy George
Nancy Wilkins
Bob & Judy Casey
J. Don Book & Family
Andrew Orlowski
Mary Soriano
Alex Soriano
Rick Coulson
Jeff Nichols