

Study Guide

For the Week of February 8, 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 Psalm 90:5-6. Your initial reaction to this passage might be fear, or anger, but take careful note of its truth. Our lives are like grass--here one day and gone the next. Have you ever looked at your life in this way? Why or why not? Is knowing that life is short, even if we live many years, a motivation for you to action or inaction? **Read Psalm 90:12.** This teaches us to number our days. In other words, we are to treat our days as being very precious and use them wisely. What could you do to use your days more wisely? What often gets in the way of this?

TUESDAY—Read 2 Corinthians 11:24-27. Aaron mentioned briefly some of the things the Apostle Paul faced as he took risks following God's calling. This is Paul's description of some of the things he encountered. Is this the kind of life that God calls each of us to? Probably not. But God does call each of us to understand that following him may not be easy all the time. How would you respond if God called you to face some of the things Paul faced?

WEDNESDAY—Read Romans 8:35-39. God has not made any promises that life would be easy when we choose to follow him, but he has made this powerful promise. What does this passage say to you when you consider taking faith-based risks? Does knowing that nothing could separate you from God and his love help you to be willing to take more risks?

THURSDAY—Read Matthew 19:16-22. This story illustrates that God always gives us choices in life when he calls us. For this young man the calling was to be one of the 12 disciples, one who would carry the word of God to the rest of the world. Why was this man unable to follow? What do you imagine his life was like later on? Would you say that the man in this story chose comfort over God's calling? How is this like or unlike your life? How important is comfort to you?

FRIDAY—Read Hebrews 11:32-39. This passage recounts the risky things that people of faith faced in following God's calling. Life is too short to not take risks. What type of risks might God be calling you to take? **Relational risks**--telling the truth to someone you love who may be ignoring the truth. **Vocational risks**--going in a different vocational direction. **Financial risks**--letting go of some of your money by investing it in what God is calling you to invest in. **Serving risks**--no longer holding back when God calls you to serve in a specific area. **Lifestyle risks**--bringing an addiction or destructive pattern out into the open and asking for help. **Marital risks**--taking the courage to have that conversation with your spouse to address issues in your relationship. Where is God asking you to get out of your "easy" chair because life is too short to play it safe?

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:

Don McCoy
Carrol Skelton
Jr. Skelton
Marion Wheatly
Angie Patterson
Don Presley
Rose Hymer
Jim Logsdon
Richard Wright
Dorothy Hopkins

Cancer Treatment:

Sonja Davidson
Tracy Bowman
Dennis Markham

Other Concerns:

Terry Hoagland
Laura Westley
Mildred Fagen
Jeremy Smith
Shirley Wheatly
Chris Geer
Luke & Andrea Fields