

Study Guide for the Week of June 1, 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! Sermon manuscripts are available at www.spwired.com.

Monday. Were you able to take some of your ordinary activities last week and make them holy by inviting God to be a part of them? Continue to let this become a theme for you—inviting Jesus to be with you in the ordinary flow of your day. Today’s readings are about the role of work. **Read Colossians 3:23.** What is your “work”? Even if you don’t enjoy it, do you do it with all your heart? Do you do it as if you were working for the Lord himself? **Read Romans 12:3.** When we know that God loves us, we can begin to see ourselves with sober judgment. The work that we do often reveals who we are. How does your work reveal who you are? How does your work allow you to look at yourself and address attitudes, habits, etc. that can be significant to your life?

Tuesday. Today’s readings will address our leisure times. **Read Genesis 2:1-3.** Just as God is a God of work, we see that he is also a God of rest. God expects us to have a healthy balance between our work and our rest. Aaron described leisure time as that which God uses to renew you and breathes life into you. What is that for you? To what extent is watching TV a use of your leisure time? How seriously have you taken the challenge to “unplug” for a day, a week, or even longer? **Read Psalm 23.** The images in this passage are very restful, renewing images. Take a moment and rewrite these verses in your own words. What other images come to mind for you in this passage?

Wednesday. Today’s passages will be about lifestyle choices. **Read Romans 12:2.** The J.B. Phillips translation of this verse reads, “Don’t let the world squeeze you into its mold.” What mold do you think the world is trying to squeeze you into? How do you resist, or give into, that pressure? Reread this passage and commit it to memory. **Read Luke 12:15.** One way we avoid being stuffed into the world’s mold is to resist the materialism that surrounds us. Is this something you struggle with? Think about all your possessions: home, car, clothes, gadgets. What could you live without? Sometimes living without something allows us to simplify and rediscover the joy of life. How might this apply to you? What might Jesus tell you if you gave him a tour of your “stuff”?

Thursday. Today’s passages will be about friendship. **Read John 15:9-15.** How did Jesus model friendship? What does the word “friendship” mean to you? How important are your friendships to you? How does one go about making friends and deepening existing friendships? **Read Proverbs 17:17 and Proverbs 27:17.** What do these passages say about friendship? **Read Ecclesiastes 4:8-12.** Once again we see illustrated the power of friendship. What is the greatest barrier we face to creating strong friendships? Ask God to help you develop and deepen your friendships.

Friday. Today’s passage is about the difficult people in our lives. **Read Luke 6:27-38.** As we walk through our days with Jesus we will inevitably encounter people who are difficult to love. These may be people who actively antagonize us, or they may be people who annoy or disgust us. How does walking with Jesus affect how you will interact with such people? Remember that how you respond to those who are hard to love is indicative of your spiritual maturity. Spend time asking God to help you grow in this way. Finish this week’s study guide by rereading these passages that promise God’s presence. **Matthew 28:20. John 14:16. Hebrews 13:5.** Spend time inviting God to walk with you through all your days.