

Study Guide for the Week of March 12, 2006

How Should We Pray?

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 Matthew 6:5-8* in the New Testament. Mark mentioned three principles of prayer that come from Jesus' teaching in this passage; Be Sincere, Find a Quiet Place, and Be Conversational. Take a few minutes today to find a quiet place and image Jesus just sitting next to you. Then begin an honest, conversation in which you both talk and listen.

Tuesday. Today we're going to focus on the phrase, "Hallowed by thy name" from the Lord's Prayer, which is about giving God praise. Use the following passages to express praise, honor and thanksgiving to God, to "lift your name on high". *Read Psalm 8, Psalm 103* in the Old Testament.

Wednesday. Today we're going to look at the phrase, "thy kingdom come..." from the Lord's Prayer. *Read Matthew 5:1- 7:12* in the New Testament. Read several passages from this section, which is called the Sermon on the Mount. These teachings of Jesus describe what it looks like to live out Kingdom of God values in life. In what ways do you recognize that God's Kingdom is already at work in your life? In what ways do the Kingdom values of Jesus challenge or even scare you?

Thursday. Today, let's look at forgiveness. One phrase from the Lord's Prayer reads, "forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us." *Read Matthew 6:14-15, Matthew 18:21-35, Luke 23:33-34, and I John 1:8-9* in the New Testament. Who do you need to forgive? Who do you need to ask forgiveness from? Why is forgiveness so essential? Where does the power and strength to forgive come from?

Friday. "lead us not into temptation". *Read Luke 4:1-13* in the New Testament. What were the temptations Jesus faced? How were these strong temptations to him. Mark said that our greatest temptation was to believe that we were strong enough to face temptations on our own. How did Jesus respond to the temptations? Invite God's power to help you face the temptations you encounter today.