

Study Guide

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 Mark 7:24-30. This is one of the few times Jesus journeys away from the Sea of Galilee area. How is this story similar to Sunday' Scripture and sermon text? In verse 27 Jesus is not calling this woman a dog, but is using a parable to say why he should focus his ministry on the children of Israel. This is a test –he resists her request up front in order to draw out her faith. What might this teach us about prayer? **Read Mark 7:31-37;** another healing story. Why did Jesus utter a “eep sigh”in v. 34? What do today' stories tell you about Jesus?

Tuesday –Read Mark 8:1-13. What do verses 2-3 tell you about Jesus? What does verse 4 tell you about the disciples given the fact that in ch. 6 Jesus had multiplied the fish and loaves once before to feed thousands? How does this story point toward the meaning of, or what happens in, Holy Communion? How could the Pharisees have missed all the “igns”that Jesus had already given as to his identity? Why did Jesus “igh deeply”in v. 12? **Read Mark 8:14-21.** How are the disciples portrayed in this story? Do you think Jesus ever gets frustrated with us for our failure to understand and trust him?

Wednesday - Read Mark 8:22-26. What stands out to you about this story? How does Jesus open our “yes”today? **Read Mark 8:27-30.** This is Peter' great confession of faith. Jesus still asks this question of each of us today –“ho do you say that I am?”Remember, Mark' entire gospel was written to answer this question. Peter' answer is a climactic end to the first half of Mark, and now Jesus begins moving toward his crucifixion. **Read Mark 8:31-9:1.** Vs. 33 points to how humans can act in “emonic”ways –that is, in ways that encourage others to avoid God' plans –Peter did this unwittingly and with good motives. Read again verses 34-38 –these are important and powerful words about being a disciple of Jesus. What do they mean to you?

Thursday - Read Mark 9:2-13. Moses, when he went up on Mount Sinai to receive the Law of God, came down transfigured. What do Moses and Elijah represent? God previously spoke aloud to Jesus at his baptism as Jesus launched his ministry. God speaks aloud now to prepare Jesus for what? Verses 10-13 refer back to Malachi 4:5-6 which Jesus explains is a reference to John the Baptist. **Read Mark 9:14-32.** Do you ever feel like praying the prayer this man offered?

Friday - Read Mark 9:33-37. Jesus is speaking about his death and the disciples are arguing over who is the greatest. What does this tell us about ourselves? How is verse 35 a defining statement for how we are to live? **Read Mark 9:38-50.** Here Mark includes several of the sayings that Matthew includes in the Sermon on the Mount. In verses 42-47 Jesus deploys “yperbole”–a way of speaking he frequently uses –exaggerating to make an important point. We are not to cut off our hands and pluck out our eyes –but to understand the danger of sin and flee from it. How are we like salt? What does salt do? How can we be “hristian”salt for the world?