

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 Matthew 22:34-40. Jesus says that all the Bible teaches, all the truths we know about what God wants, hang on the two commands he quoted. What do you believe makes these two commands so essential? Can you recall a time when a belief you held led you to be unloving, even without realizing it? How well can you love your neighbor as yourself if you don't have healthy ways of loving and caring for yourself? What does it look like to love yourself?

Tuesday—Read Luke 15:11-24. Jesus told this story to answer a complaint from the religious leaders that he spent too much time with sinners (Luke 15:2). How do you react to God welcoming people you consider sinners? How, if at all, have your feelings changed over time? Who do you identify with most in this story?

Wednesday—Read 1 Corinthians 13:1-13. In verses 4-7, we get a compact list of how love does and does not act. Which of the items listed do you value most from someone else? Which is the most challenging for you to offer to another person? How will you open your life to God's influence, so that you can grow in these qualities?

Thursday—Read Romans 12:9-21. What historical or contemporary figures can you think of who practiced, in visible, public ways, the principle of overcoming evil with good? How can you apply that principle in the personal relationships you're involved in every day? Paul quotes Proverbs 25:21-22 as a divine guideline about how to treat "your enemy." How do you grasp the image that says treating the enemy kindly is like "heaping burning coals" on his head? Have you ever tried this approach? What were the results in the relationship? In your inner life?

Friday—Read Matthew 5:43-48. Jesus says that God causes it to rain on the just and the unjust alike. How often are you tempted to limit your help and your efforts to bless only the people you like, or consider "worthy"? How can you become more like God in your willingness to bless anyone who needs it? How do you understand the idea of loving your enemies? Does that refer more to having mushy, affectionate feelings about them, or to choosing to act for their good despite what they have done to you? How can making those hard choices help you grow in character and maturity?

Prayer Concerns

Serving in Iraq:

Ryan Grindstaff
Deric Croan
Summer Garner
Wally Walber

Military:

Cyle Haywood
Jesse Smith
Nathan Lawellin
Matthew Peak
Stephen Leadbetter
Richard Hurst
James Lesmeister

Jon Arnold
Jason Lewis
Chris Palmer
Joshua Walker
Jeff Foust
Michael Norvell
Wally Warber
Kristin Carter
[Ian Hammons](#)

Health & Healing:

Jr. & Carrol Skelton
Estell Maloney
Alidene Brewer

Cancer Treatment:

Sonja Davidson
Tony Allen
Joyce Pace
Rose Hymer
Dottie Maloney

Other Concerns:

Mario, Mary & Alex Soriano
Ariege Sappington
Shane James