

## Study Guide for the Week of November 2, 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! Message manuscripts are available at [www.spwired.com](http://www.spwired.com).*

**Monday**— This week we'll, in part, look at some of the wide variety of personalities represented in scripture and how sometimes personalities clashed. Read **Romans 14:13** in the New Testament. What does this verse tell us about God's heart regarding our differences? Read **1 Corinthians 12:27**. How does this relate to the differences we encounter in the personalities of others?

**Tuesday**--Read **Genesis 25:19-34** in the Old Testament. What personality differences are described here? How might that have made parenting difficult? What was the result of this personality conflict? Read Genesis chapter 27 and following for more on Jacob and Esau. Eventually they are reunited as brothers, but what damage was done because of their differences?

**Wednesday**—Read **Acts 15:37-41** in the New Testament. What does this show about the personality conflict between Paul and Mark? Read **2 Timothy 4:9-11**. Later on Paul and Mark would heal their rift. Paul would even call Mark his "son". How did they bring healing to their personality conflict and differences?

**Thursday**--Read **Romans 15:7** in the New Testament. How does this passage relate to our personalities? Obviously, there are things that others might do that we could not accept or tolerate. How do we discern the difference between a mere personality conflict and a conflict between values, or a conflict between good and evil? How might God guide us through that?

**Friday**--Read **Genesis chapter 27** in the Old Testament. What conflicts do you see in this story? The good news is that God uses the bad situation to do amazingly good things. Joseph rises through slavery and adversity to save the entire country of Egypt. Eventually he is reunited with his father and brothers. How does forgiveness play into personality conflicts? How has God shaped your personality and who do you mesh with? What types of personalities are you likely to clash with? How does all of this play into your SHAPE?