

# 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! For message manuscripts and videos go to [spwired.com](http://spwired.com).*

**Monday—Read Romans 12:18-21.** Paul is writing here and giving us a mandate about living at peace with others. Notice that he says, “If it is possible, as far as it depends on you...” In saying that he realizes that by our effort we cannot bring peace to every situation we face. But we must try. Are there relationships in your life that need peace in them right now? How might you actively pursue making peace there? What advice does Paul give about being a peace-maker?

**Tuesday—**Today’s reading will be oriented toward making peace with God. **Read Colossians 1:20, Jeremiah 29:11, Matthew 11:28-30.** What do these passages say about God’s restoration of a relationship with humanity? What are God’s desires for you? What does Jesus say in the passage from Matthew that invites us to be at peace with God? Aaron mentioned three things that might cause us to not feel God’s peace: An unanswered calling from God; Unforgiven sin; Being disappointed in God. Do any of these apply to you? If so, how do you overcome them?

**Wednesday—**Today’s readings will be oriented toward making peace with ourselves. **Read John 14:25-27.** How might these words of Jesus help bring peace with yourself? How is the Holy Spirit working to bring inner peace? **Read Philippians 4:6-9.** What practical advice does Paul give in these words that lead to peace with ourselves? Spend some time doing what he says in verse 8. How might practicing these things bring ongoing peace within yourself?

**Thursday—**Today’s readings relate to persecution. While Christians in the U.S. face comparatively little persecution, there is a growing pressure to “keep your beliefs to yourself.” **Read Matthew 5:14-15.** How can you let your light, your faith, shine so that others may seek the living Jesus in you? What things might you avoid doing? **Read Matthew 5:44-48.** What does Jesus say about how to respond to those who persecute you? What is the hardest part about that? Remember Aaron’s question: If being a Christian were a crime, would there be enough evidence to convict you? How do you respond to that?

**Friday—**Today we’ll reread the section of scripture that was the basis for this series. **Read Matthew 5:1-12.** What have you learned about these statements? How would you now put them in your own words? How do they point to joy and life for you?

## Prayer Concerns

### Health & Healing

Bill Christman, Danburg Family, Ken Anthony,  
Pat Anthony, Mynatt Wilkinson

### Cancer Treatment

Easton Murdock, Joey Walker

### Other Concerns

Shari Dwors, Melissa Thompson, Ron & Bonnie  
Curtis, James Lesmeister