

Study Guide for the Week of September 10, 2006

Forgiveness: The Real F Word—4-D Forgiveness

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.spwired.com.

Monday. Read Colossians 3:1-10 in the New Testament. In many ways this passage encapsulates the themes of this series on forgiveness. Verses 1-3 are a reminder to live in the 4th dimension that Aaron spoke about--that unseen dimension where God's principles reign. What other principles in this passage relate directly, or indirectly, to what we've studied about forgiveness? How are you applying these to your life? What are the parts that are most difficult to apply?

Tuesday. Read Colossians 3:12-17. According to this passage, how do forgiveness, love and peace work together? How is thankfulness tied in to forgiveness? What else does this passage bring to mind? Look at verse 17. How can you improve in how you do everything in the name of Jesus? What does that look like in everyday life? What might it look like in your life?

Wednesday. Read Luke 23:34. This takes place as Jesus is hanging on the cross. What does this passage teach us about God's desire to forgive? **Read John 20:19-23.** This passage describes the scene on Easter morning--the day that Jesus came back from the dead. He gives his followers the gift of the Holy Spirit (his ongoing presence) and then tells them something about forgiveness. What do these words mean to you? These are his first words after his resurrection and it ties his crucifixion directly into forgiveness—one of the most overwhelming characteristics of God.

Thursday. Read Ephesians 3:16-20. This passage points to the 4th dimension of walking with God. In this 4th dimension we are given strength to do what we could not humanly do. What other characteristics does this passage describe that might we encounter in this 4th dimension? Do you see these characteristics in your life? If not, how do you get there from where you are? Spend time praying about this, asking God for wisdom, strength and insight.

Friday. Read Psalm 103:8-14. The word "fear" in this passage does not describe a cowering fear, or being truly afraid of God. It has more the context of loving God so much that you fear disappointing him. With that in mind, what does this passage tell us about God? What does it tell us about human beings? What does it tell us about the relationship between God and human beings? How does this passage speak to your own soul? God is forgiving, ready to forgive, loving and ready to love. Are you? Spend time in prayer thanking God for his love and forgiveness and asking for strength and guidance in living out his characteristics in your own life and in the midst of your own challenges.