

Study Guide for the Week of September 2, 2007

This study guide is designed to help you to become more familiar with the Bible. For 2007 the study guide is designed to help you read through the New Testament in a year. Study these passages on your own, with a friend, or with a group. If you or someone you know needs a Bible take one from the bookcase. They are there for you to take home and use! Sermon manuscripts are available at www.spwired.com.

Monday, September 3. Read John 10:1-21. This paints one of the most beautiful pictures of Jesus in the New Testament. Jesus speaks several “I am” statements here. What are those statements and what do they mean to you?

Tuesday, September 4. Read John 10:22-42. The religious leaders push Jesus to tell them if he is or is not the messiah. What is Jesus response? Why does his answer make them so angry? What word of good news do you draw from this passage?

Wednesday, September 5. Read John 11:1-27. This is the beginning of the story of the raising of Lazarus from the dead. Someone once said, “I do not like crises; but I like the opportunities which they supply” (John Reith). The death of Lazarus brought a crisis to Jesus and he was glad. Not that Lazarus was dead, but because it gave Jesus the opportunity to demonstrate in the most amazing way what God can do. How do you respond to the following statement? “For us, every crisis should be an opportunity.”

Thursday, September 6. Read John 11:28-57. In the second half of the Lazarus miracle we see Jesus so moved that he weeps. He weeps along with the anguish of the friends and family of Lazarus, even knowing what he is about to do. In John, the descriptions of Jesus are meant to give us a picture of God. What does this healing miracle tell us about the heart of God when we hurt, grieve, or suffer? Why were the religious leaders so angered by this miracle?

Friday, September 7. Read John 12:1-26. In this passage we see Jesus entering into Jerusalem as people praise him. At the end of this passage we see a statement that Jesus is applying to himself and to all people: It is in dying that we live. It is in sacrificing our lives that we actually experience life. When Jesus says that we should hate this life, he is speaking prophetically, to make a point. We are to see our lives as a gift, but look beyond the gift to the giver—God. God should be the object of our love and then we can truly love life for what it is.

Saturday, September 8. Read John 12:27-50. Here Jesus spends a great deal of time pointing to the Father. His message is, “If you want to know what the Father is like, look at me. See what I do. Listen to what I say. Follow in my footsteps of action and compassion.” How could you more closely follow Jesus in the next 24 hours? What might you do? What might you avoid doing?

Sunday, September 9. Read John 13:1-20. In John’s version of the last supper Jesus takes on the role of the household slave and washes the feet of his disciples. In his final act with him before his crucifixion, he models exactly what it looks like to be his follower. What might it mean for us as followers to wash the feet others? What acts of service might this lead to in our day and age? What kind of heart does servanthood like this require? How do you cultivate that kind of heart in yourself?