

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 **Psalm 103:1-13**. It’s easy to think that there is a disconnect between the picture of God in the Old Testament and the compassion of Jesus. This passage reminds us that the compassion we see in Jesus is nothing new. Focus on verses 8-13. Do you sometimes measure whether people are worthy of your compassion? Compare verse 10 to **Matthew 18:21-35**.

Tuesday – Read **Mark 8:1-9**. Jesus’ showed compassion not just by healing people, but by responding to their everyday needs, in this case, their physical hunger. Read **Mark 6:34-37**. Notice in this case how Jesus responds to his disciples, “You give them something to eat”. They must have thought, “There is no way. The need is too great. What can we do?” Do you ever look at issues like world hunger and think those same thoughts? But Jesus takes what they have and uses it to make something amazing happen for people in need. What do you have that Jesus can use in the fight against world hunger?

Wednesday – Read **Luke 25-37**. Jesus uses a story about compassion or the lack of it to illustrate what it means to love God and our neighbors (and he expands our definition of neighbors to include everyone). How do you find yourself making excuses when you see a need? Ask Jesus to give you courage of heart to move beyond excuse making.

Thursday – Read **Matthew 20:29-34** and **Acts 3:1-10**. Jesus’ compassion led him to do lots of healing. He was deeply concerned about people’s well-being; physically and spiritually! The early church considered healing as an essential part of the gospel message! In what ways are you an agent of healing in this world? Whose spiritual or physical well-being can you affect through personal involvement? For issues of global healing see: www.umc.org/site/c.lwL4KnN1LtH/b.4407745/k.5B59/Global_Health_Initiative.htm

Friday - Read **John 15:9-14**. Jesus’ instruction is pretty clear – to love as he has loved; selflessly and sacrificially. Compassion is love motivated to action. Jesus gives us some examples of what his love put into action looks like in **Matthew 25:31-40**. Individually we can’t do it all, but we can all do *something!* In what ways have you been living out God’s love through acts of compassion? Is God leading you to do something new?

Prayer Concerns

Serving in the military:

We honor those serving in the military by placing their names on the Military Board in the east hallway after listing new names here for one week. Please check that board regularly.
Chris Troxell - Afghanistan

Health & Healing

Rick Adams
Michael Bowman
Tina Bowman
Ginger Whatley
John James, Sr.
Cindy Martin

Grief:

The family of **David Millsap**

Cancer Treatment:

Charolette Bowzer
Pam Clifton
Rose Hymer
Easton Murdock
Joey Walker

Other Concerns:

Charles & Sharon Kohler
Anna Treeseer
Melvin Sormay
Mary, Martyn & Marissela Soriano
Lesmeister Families
Ron & Bonnie Curtis
Melissa Thompson
Jeremy Whatley
Lori Robinson
Makiah Newman