

STUDY GUIDE

8-30-10 TO 9-4 -10

The Study Guide is an opportunity for you to read and study the Bible on your own or with a friend. Each day's reading will only take a few minutes, but will serve as an opportunity for you to grow in your faith and to spend time connecting with God. Enjoy!

Prayer for the Week: O God, our Creator, renew our spirits and draw our hearts to you, that our work may not be to us a burden but a delight; and give us such love as may sweeten all our obedience to you. Help us that we may serve you with the cheerfulness and gladness of children, delighting ourselves in you and rejoicing in all that is to the honor of your name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

MONDAY –Read Psalm 1. What does the advice of the wicked look like today? Could part of that advice come from friends and society on how to look at the whole issue of forgiveness? If someone challenges your decision to forgive as stupid, how would you respond as to why you trying to forgive?

TUESDAY –Read Luke 14.1, 7-14. Jesus invites himself into our lives and then introduces a very different way of living in the world. For example, he teaches the importance of hospitality, i.e. the gracious receiving of the stranger, especially those in need. Jesus challenges the age old desire of needing to get something back for helping others in need. Do you find this difficult to grasp?

WEDNESDAY –Read Jeremiah 42.1-43.7. This passage seems so contemporary. The people were pleading to the prophet Jeremiah to know what God desired of them; but when it wasn't what they wanted to hear, they told Jeremiah he was wrong, that it was *not* what God desired. Can you think of a time in your life where scripture and the voice of God spoke clearly to you, but you didn't want to follow? And all you really wanted was to have God bless what *you* wanted to do?

THURSDAY –Read Hebrews 13.1, 15-16. This letter addresses an unknown congregation describing what is pleasing to God. It is always easier to see what someone else 'should' do, and harder to look at ourselves and see what God wants us to change in our lives. Read again the list of things and identify the one what makes you most uncomfortable and ask God to help you grow into it.

FRIDAY – This is Labor Day weekend. Mother Teresa who ran the Home for the Dying and Destitute in Calcutta instituted a rule that her sisters take Thursday off for prayer and rest. *"The work will always be here, but if we do not rest and pray, we will not have the presence to do our work."* How high a priority do you make of your daily devotions?

SATURDAY ---Read Revelation 21.1-6 and 2 Peter 3.10-14 in preparation to worship tomorrow. Dr. Joe Bankard (husband of Kelly Bankard, who works with our youth) will be preaching. Joe is a professor of Ethics at Northwest Nazarene University and a very

active member of our congregation. His sermon title is *“In the Midst of Doubt: Why the Church Really Does Have Good News.”*