

## STUDY GUIDE

8-9-10 TO 8-14-10

*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:** Grant, O God, that we may never lose the way through our self-will and so end up in the far countries of the soul; that we many never choose the cheap and easy things and let go of the precious things that last forever. So keep us and strengthen us by your grace and power so that we may be faithful, today and always. Amen.

**MONDAY –Read Psalm 38.** Yesterday Pastor Steve likened rocks in a backpack that weigh us down like grudges, sin and hatred. Do you see the psalmist trying to describe the same thing but using different analogies? How would you describe the feeling of refusing to accept the freedom one finds with God in being forgiven?

**TUESDAY –Read Judges 19.** It is hard to imagine someone who would treat his concubine this way. He does not treat her as a beloved child of God. Does the same thing happen today with people who abuse children, or traffic in the sex trade or look at another person as less than human? Or do we do the same thing when we deal with illegal immigrants?

**WEDNESDAY – Read Leviticus 5.4-13.** The instructions in this biblical passage detail how one can be forgiven. It is not cheap or easy, but is a costly endeavor. Note the grace extended to those who don't have as many resources as others. How does offering specific sacrifices help them to accept God's forgiveness?

**THURSDAY – Read 1 John 5.10.** Yesterday we read how our Jewish ancestors sought to experience God's forgiveness. In today's reading, it boldly proclaims that if we confess, we will be forgiven. What sins do you need to confess and how can you accept the forgiveness given?

**FRIDAY –Read Jeremiah 31.31-40.** Early Christians felt that Jeremiah's prophecy had taken place with Jesus Christ. If we refuse to forgive, what does that say about a change in our heart? If forgiving was easy, more people would do it. Did you ever hear that following Jesus was going to be easy?

**SATURDAY ---Read Colossians 3.12-17.** Tomorrow Pastor Steve will continue the sermon series on forgiveness, by talking about when someone forgives and reconciliation does not take place. Is there someone you know who is carrying a heavy burden of anger, revenge and bitterness around with them because of what has happened in their lives? Invite them to church. Better yet, offer to bring them with you.

