

STUDY GUIDE 7-5-10 TO 7-10-10

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: Lord God, in whom I find life, health and strength, through whose gifts I am clothed and fed, through whose mercy I have been forgiven and cleansed, be for me guide, strength, Savior and Lord all the days of my life. I offer my prayers through Christ. Amen.

MONDAY –Read Psalm 131. Unlike so many psalms, at this time in the psalmist life, he is not restless or crying out for help. Rather the psalmist is content in the embrace of God, pictured as a mother and the psalmist as her own child. Can you identify with this feeling of contentment and love with God?

TUESDAY –Read 1 John 4.7-21. This book begins with “God is Light” (1 John 1.5) and today’s reading states that “God is Love.” Note the similarities as the writer describes what it means to live in the light as and then to love as God loves. Does either of these analogies speak to you more than the other?

WEDNESDAY –Read 1 Kings 19.1-12. Elijah is hiding in a cave, overcome with fear. God does not become angry because of his fear or lack of faith, but speaks in a ‘gentle whisper’ (or as some translate, ‘sheer silence’). How do you perceive God when people flee from him, angry or loving?

THURSDAY –Read Jonah 1. How often the God of the Old Testament is pictured as so very angry and destructive. In this story, the prophet of God does exactly the opposite of what God asks. God does not punish nor destroy him, but uses all the means he can to get him back on the right path. Have you ever intentionally done something you know God does not want you to do? How do you think God reacted?

FRIDAY –Read John 18. 15-27. In the hymn, “*Are Ye Able*”, the congregation sings boldly, “*yes lord, we are able to the death to follow thee.*” Today’s reading is about Peter’s failure. How does Jesus respond to Peter’s failure? What does that tell you about how God responds when we fail?

SATURDAY ---Tomorrow, I will be preaching the sermon, “John Wesley and the American Revolution.” We will welcome the Free Wheelchair Ministry presentation and ask that you pray for those people who will receive the gift of mobility through our offerings, as well as the gifts of independence, opportunity and hope.