

STUDY GUIDE

March 8 to 13, 2010

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 Jesus Christ, you come to us with gracious love. You take us as we are. But in love, you do not leave us as we are. You love us enough to judge us, to correct us, to hold us to account in love. Give us the grace to see your judgment of us as part of your grace toward us, to see our lives in the light of your truth, to grow, to change, and to be reborn into the people you would have us to be. Courageously let us listen to what you have to say to us, to receive what you have to give us, even if what you have to tell us is the truth, even if what you desire to give us is judgment. Amen.

MONDAY – Read Psalm 32. Can a person's transgressions be forgiven without asking God for forgiveness and repenting? When one repents, they stop doing what was offensive to God and seeks God's powerful spirit in helping to change. Ask God to forgive specific things about you and then have the faith to accept God's forgiveness.

TUESDAY – Read Isaiah 55.1-9. During Lent, it is a time to reflect on our journey of faith, as we move closer to Easter. Are there ways today that you can seek the Lord? Are there moments today when you need to be silent, seek and listen for God?

WEDNESDAY – Read 1 Corinthians 10:1-13. Isn't it amazing that despite the ancient Israelites unfaithfulness, God does not give up on human beings? In spite of all that happened, God so loved the world that he sent Jesus Christ, not to condemn but to save. Does Paul's advice give you a clue as to why the first Christians were called "People of the Way?"

THURSDAY – Luke 13.1-9. How often people claim tragedy is God punishing people. Yet here, Jesus rejects that notion while pointing out that people who do not follow His way will find tragedy. Jesus' way is the way to true life and life abundantly. How would you define "the Way" of Jesus in your life?

FRIDAY – Read Joshua 5.9-12. After 40 years of wandering in the wilderness, Israel enters the Promised Land and begins the process of conquest. As Christians, we enter new territory every day and Jesus calls us to share the Good News by word and deed. How do you see this as Christians conquering by bringing light in the midst of darkness?

SATURDAY – Read 2 Corinthians 5.16-21. Tomorrow Pastor Steve returns to the pulpit after spending three weeks in Peru and Bolivia on a mission trip. His sermon is *Breaking News from Peru*. He will share how and whose lives were transformed by God's spirit. Pray for God's guidance for everyone who comes to worship.