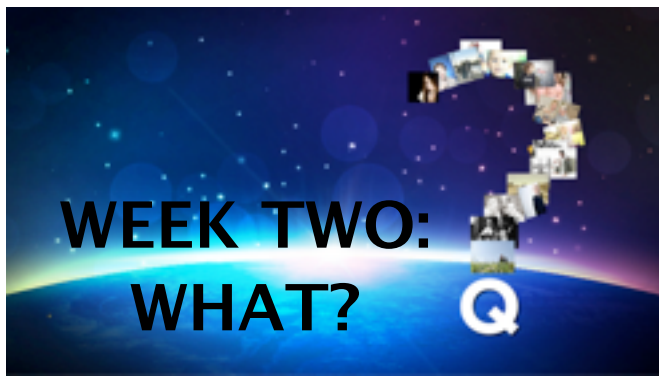


SOUTHRIDGE CHURCH

STUDY GUIDE: January 10, 2010



For many who have been exposed to the Church, the conception of the Christian message is that we are bad, ugly people but fortunately for us God is a loving God so Jesus died on the cross to forgive us so that we could go to heaven when we die. This is definitely not the message of Jesus! Jesus' message was that we are beautiful people, made in the image of God, who have all the potential in the world to be used by God to transform this planet in to the kind of place God always thought it could be. That's what God is all about- changing lives to change the world.

In your own way and at you own pace, please freely explore the follow up questions, Bible study materials, daily Bible reading suggestions, spiritual exercises and other resources listed here to take this conversation to the next level in your life. Use a journal or take advantage of the community with which God has surrounded you (including your family!) to work through what you find here. This resource is for you. It is an invitation to take the conversation beyond Sundays and to make it a 24/7 reality in your life. Enjoy!

GOING DEEPER:

1. Take some time to reflect on the journey of "Q".
 - ◆ What did God teach you this past Sunday through the service? How has this contributed to your understanding of what Jesus is all about?
 - ◆ How did this past week's daily readings and/or spiritual exercises impact how you processed of either last week's topic or this week's or both?
2. Historically, what has been your understanding of the Christian faith? Getting my sin forgiven to go to heaven? Being renewed in the image of God to transform earth? Something else?
 - ◆ How did you develop the perception of the Christian faith that you have?
 - ◆ How did that perception of the Christian faith affect your attitude towards it?
 - ◆ Why do you think that parts of the Church has taught a "pray-a-prayer-and-go-to-heaven" Christianity?
3. How do you respond to the perspective presented this morning, that living the Christian faith also includes transforming our world, addressing issues such as poverty, slavery and environmentalism?
 - ◆ How does this perspective on the Christian faith challenge the way you look at the world?
 - ◆ What kind of changes would this perspective of the Christian faith demand from your life?
4. How do you think this perspective of the Christian faith would change the way society views Christianity?
 - ◆ How would it change societies understanding of God, the Church and faith in Jesus? Would it change for the better or for the worse?
 - ◆ How would this perspective change the way that you would talk about faith with a friend who hasn't oriented their life around the teaching of Jesus? Why, would you say, do people need Jesus in their life?



SOUTHRIDGE CHURCH

WEEK TWO: WHAT?

January 10, 2010

BIBLE STUDY:

Read **Matthew 6:10-14** and **Luke 11:2-4** (remember to use two or three different translations, if possible).

Phil Newton writes: “The second and third petitions (out of six) of the Lord’s Prayer very naturally flow out of the first petition. God’s name is not hallowed to the ends of the earth and that affects the praying of kingdom citizens. We see this at every turn. We look at the warring factions throughout the world, the oppression that boggles the imagination, the ruthless treatment of the poor and powerless, and we have no doubt that God’s name is not being hallowed. We see the gross idolatry in many nations, the superstitions in others and the worship of false gods in still others. On the home front we recognize rebellion and the pursuit of sin at every level. We shake our heads at the way morality is scorned and even openly mocked. God’s name is not being hallowed to the ends of the earth. The Living God is not recognized. Therefore we pray, **“Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven”**. Because God’s name is not hallowed we must pray for his kingdom to come.

These two petitions ask for the Lord’s rule over our lives and the entire created order to be fully manifested. It is the longing of kingdom citizens - that the kingship of our King might be honored and glorified, and that the whole earth might submit to his rule. Day after day, people of every walk of life pray, **“Your kingdom come. Your will be done.”** And probably there is no phrase - no prayer - more abused and misunderstood as this one. Yet millions pray this petition today without any careful thought that to pray this without desiring it is taking the Lord’s name in vain.”

Review the following questions:

1. What do you think Jesus means by “Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in Heaven”? How do you define/identify the coming of His kingdom? What does that look like in our world and in our lives?
2. Jesus is suggesting that these things form the central core to our prayers. Do you consciously, actively pray that God’s kingdom will come or are you “taking the Lord’s name in vain?” Why or why not?
3. Martin Luther once said: “When you pray, pray as though everything depends on you, because it does. When you work, work as though everything depends on you, because it does.” Changing the world begins with changing ourselves. How can we start the process of helping God’s kingdom to be realized in our lives and in Niagara in 2010?

NEW TO THE BIBLE

Those who are new to reading the Bible may want to explore some of the ideas and suggestions on our website.

[CLICK HERE](#)

Bible Study continued on next page....



SOUTHRIDGE CHURCH

WEEK TWO: WHAT?

January 10, 2010

BIBLE STUDY CONTINUED...

Concerning verses 14 and 15, Greg Allen writes: “We have already been forgiven of our sins through faith in the blood of Jesus. God is now 100% our Father and will never cease to be so. But though there is never a loss of our relationship with the Father, there will be a hinderance in that relationship so long as we harbor bitterness and unforgiveness towards those who do wrong to us. God does not want such unholiness of attitude to be found in the hearts of His children as they approach His throne; and so long as such unholiness is found in us, that hinderance in our relationship to the Father will not be removed. And so Jesus is calling us to conform to His Father’s holiness by being as ready to forgive others as He has been forgiving towards us. He conditions our ‘relational forgiveness’ from the Father with these words: **‘as we forgive our debtors’**. After all, remember that Jesus taught us to pray to “Our” Father....he means for us to be right with one another when we do so.”

Review the following questions:

1. Allen argues that failure to forgive others is a major barrier in our relationship with God. How has this played out in your life (or others)? What are you going to do this week to begin the journey of dealing with the unforgiveness in your life?
2. How do you interpret “daily bread”? Do we feel the need to urgently and consistently ask God to meet our basic daily needs? Why or why not? What would happen if we did?
3. What does Jesus mean by “lead us not into temptation” (the word can also be translated “trials”)? Do we feel the need to urgently and consistently ask God to protect us from trouble and temptation? Why or why not? What will happen if we did?

DAILY READING TEXTS:

DAY	THEME	TEXT
Monday	Family Reunion	Genesis 42:1-38; 45:1-28
Tuesday	A “Saviour” Named Moses	Exodus 1:1-3:22
Wednesday	God Leads Israel Out Of Egypt	Exodus 11:1-12:42; 13:17-14:31
Thursday	Israel Becomes God’s People	Exodus 19:1-20:21
Friday	God Leads Israel Into Canaan	Joshua 1:1-18; 3:1-17
Saturday	Conquering The Promised Land	Joshua 8:1-35; 11:1-23
Sunday	Gideon, The Reluctant leader	Judges 6:1-7:25



SOUTHRIDGE CHURCH

WEEK TWO: WHAT?

January 10, 2010

SPIRITUAL EXERCISES:

Prayer has been described as bringing the power of God into contact with the pain of the world. Spend the week following Jesus' model of prayer. Pray through one phase per day, talking freely with God about whatever comes to mind with each part.

- ✓ **MONDAY:** *"Our Father in Heaven..."*
 - Focusing on God himself. Either use what you learned last week or reflect on how God has been your "Heavenly Father". How have you experienced both His power and God-ness and His love and intimacy? What does this metaphor suggest to you?

- ✓ **TUESDAY:** *"Hallowed be your name..."*
 - To make God's name "hallowed" (holy) means for it to be revered by people all over the world, who love and serve him. Make God and His will for you and our world, the sole focus of your life and prayer. Pray that God's will would be the one thing you ultimately care about in life.

- ✓ **WEDNESDAY:** *"Your Kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven..."*
 - Pray for the ways, personally and globally, in which the world would be a better place if God were allowed to run it the way that He wants, if everybody loved God and each other with all of themselves. Pray for ways in which God's love should change our world.

- ✓ **THURSDAY:** *"Give us this day our daily bread..."*
 - Pray for the modest (and grand) requests for all of the needs of our lives. (God promises that if we are Kingdom people, He will meet all our needs, though not all our wants.) These are the things we need to better participate in God's will being "done on earth as it is in Heaven."

- ✓ **FRIDAY:** *"Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors..."*
 - It is here that we pray for God's pardon for all of the ways in which we've been part of the problem in our world, rather than part of the solution. God will forgive us in direct proportion to our willingness to forgive those who have hurt and offended us (pretty good motivation to pray for a forgiving spirit for ourselves).

- ✓ **SATURDAY:** *"Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one..."*
 - This request is about praying that God would help us avoid the sin today that we fell into yesterday, for protection from the Enemy's schemes and attacks. Be honest and vulnerable with God about the temptations you experience.

- ✓ **SUNDAY:** Pray the whole prayer in the spirit that you have learned this week.



SOUTHRIDGE CHURCH

WEEK TWO: WHAT?

January 10, 2010

RESOURCES:

[Simply Christian, N.T. Wright](#)

[The Story We Find Ourselves In, Brian McLaren](#)

[The Secret Message Of Jesus, Brian McLaren](#)

[Jesus Wants To Save Christians, Rob Bell](#)

[Experiencing God, Henry Blackaby](#)

[Southridge Sermon Series: The Story We Find Ourselves In -
www.southridgechurch.ca/series/the_story_we_find_ourselves_in/](#)