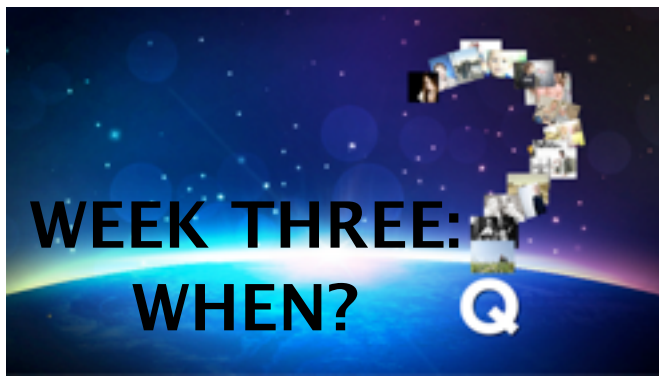


SOUTHRIDGE CHURCH

STUDY GUIDE: January 17, 2010



While, for many of us, church is what happens on Sunday morning, at 11am. It is a time to engage in an experience with God, to meet Him significantly in a way that will change our entire week. Though this really happens, it is not the way that God designed our relationship with Him to work. God wants everyday to be a day when we engage in an experience of God, when we meet Him significantly in a way that will change our entire life. God's vision is a vision of relationship, of 24/7 encounter of the presence and power of His Holy Spirit in our lives. God's invitation to you is to do life together. So, when's good for you?

In your own way and at your 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. How do you reflect on what you heard this morning about "going to church"?
 - ◆ What is your history of "going to church"? What role did/does it play in your religious experience growing up?
 - ◆ How central was/is it to your understanding of what it means to be a follower of Jesus? Why is that?
 - ◆ Why is "going to church" the central component of faith to so many people? Why are we so quick to make a life of faith about "Temple" experiences?
2. Describe your most profound encounters with God, whether they took place as part of a worship service or outside of it.
 - ◆ What happened? In what way did you encounter God? Perhaps of the spiritual exercises from these 24/7 resources have been helpful to you? Which ones? Why/how did they help you connect with God?
 - ◆ Why do you think God chose to reveal himself to you through that experience? What is it that "worked" in that instance?
 - ◆ What have you discovered about how you most meaningfully connect with God? Where do you go and what do you do most regularly to meet God?
3. Read **John 4:19-24**. Why do you think the Samaritan woman pressed Jesus for an answer to her question about the "right way" to worship?
 - ◆ What do you make of Jesus' answer? How would you summarize what He meant to say? What did he *not* intend to say?
 - ◆ How do we "worship God in spirit"?
 - ◆ How do we "worship God in truth"?

GOING DEEPER continued on next page.....



SOUTHRIDGE CHURCH

WEEK THREE: WHEN?

January 17, 2010

GOING DEEPER CONTINUED...

4. What do you do now?

- ◆ If you have not been connecting with God as meaningful as you would have liked, what commitments do you need to make in order to make connecting with God a more meaningful and daily reality than it has been? What do you need from others to make it work?
- ◆ If you have been connecting with God, share some of the choices that you've made with others who are looking to grow in this way. How could you help others in your group to connect with God?

BIBLE STUDY:

Read Deuteronomy 6:4-9.

Here's a different translation:

“Heer I, Izrail. Ceiling Cat is teh Ceiling Cat, Ceiling Cat alone! Thuhs, u can lovez Ceiling Cat, wit ur hole bodies. An sool, an hart. An tale. An mussles. Srsly. Put dis stuffz in ur harts, k? Also can haz drillz, use them on yur littr. Allwayz be takion bout it, wethr visit or not, wethr nap or eatin. Nayl em into ur rist, as sine. Can also haz pendants on hed. Useing paynt, draw it on ur littr box, an sofas on stuffz. Srsly.”

(Blessinz of the Ceiling Cat apwn yu, srsly. This is the lolcat Bible Translation Project, a project dedicated to translating the entire Bible into lolSpeak. Check out lolSpeak at: <http://speaklolspeak.com/page/LOLspeak+101>)

R.J. Krejcir writes: “This verse starts out what is called the ‘Shema’, it means hear what God has to say. This saying was and still is the Jew’s rallying cry to know their Lord. This verse also points to the imperative of the next two verses that in a nutshell is about memorizing and knowing and doing God’s Word. God is commanding us to teach ourselves, our children, His Word so that it penetrates our heart, mind and will, that is every aspect of who we are. And then we are to write it down and bind it to all our daily aspects of life. And that call is for us today!”

Review the following questions:

1. In the Jewish consciousness, “knowing God” was integrally related to “memorizing and knowing and doing God’s Word”. Do you believe that the Bible is central to knowing God? Why or why not?
2. What does it mean to have God’s Word “penetrate our heart”? How do we do this? What is the difference (if any) between *reading* the Bible and *studying* the Bible?
3. Do you have God’s commandments “written on the door frames of your house and on your gate” (i.e. door)? What does that mean? How could we do that in our lives today?

Bible Study continued on next page....



SOUTHRIDGE CHURCH

WEEK THREE: WHEN?

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BIBLE STUDY CONTINUED...

Read 2 Timothy 3:14-17.

John MacArthur writes: “So, when you pick up your Bible, you’re not reading the word of men, you’re reading the Word of God that was written down by men who were moved along in the process by the power of the Holy Spirit. Not apart from their personalities and not apart from their experiences and not apart from their vocabulary and not apart from their heart passion and compulsion, but integrating all of that into power of the Spirit of God and never compromising the truth that every word came from God....a great and glorious miracle, so vital!”

“So God spoke in the Old Testament to the fathers by the prophets in many ways and in many portions. And God has spoken in the New Testament by His Son in the gospels and then about His Son in the rest of the New Testament. The process by which God gave us that revelation is inspiration and inspiration was God putting His revelation in, as it were, the hands of men to be written down first to be spoken and proclaimed and then written down as they were energized, carried along by the Holy Spirit. Men were used and yet no word of God was ever violated. The totality of Scripture, all Scripture, every Scripture, is totally God breathed. It is the breath of God, the writing of Scripture. The totality of it, according to **Romans 3:2** is called the oracles of God. When Paul is talking about the benefit of Israel, what is it that they had that set them apart from the other nations, he has reference to the Old Testament which he calls the oracles of God...the speeches of God...the words of God.”

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](#)

Review the following questions:

1. How would you explain “God breathed”? What is it about the Bible that makes it different than other books?
2. What does it mean when theologians say that the Bible is “totally without error, and free from all contradiction”? Do you believe it? How does that change the way you read it?
3. From **2 Timothy 3:14-17**, what are the main benefits to be realized through studying Scripture? Which do you need most in your life right now? How have you experienced the impact of the Scriptures on your spiritual growth and development in the past?
4. What Bible study habits would you like to develop and grow in order to experience the full benefits of Scripture in your life?



SOUTHRIDGE CHURCH

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DAILY READING TEXTS:

DAY	THEME	TEXT
Monday	Sampson, The Weak Strong Leader	Judges 13:1-25; 16:1-31
Tuesday	Samuel, Israel's Ideal Leader	1 Samuel 1:1-28; 3:1-21; 7:2-17
Wednesday	Israel Rejects God As Leader	1 Samuel 8:1-10:25
Thursday	God Rejects Saul As King	1 Samuel 15:1-35
Friday	David, Israel's Ideal King	1 Samuel 16:1-17:58
Saturday	Solomon, Israel's Wise King	1 Kings 3:1-28; 4:29-34
Sunday	Solomon Builds God A Temple	1 Kings 6:1-38; 8:1-66

SPIRITUAL EXERCISES:

- √ Take some moments this week to do the online spiritual pathways assessment listed in the Resources section to think about the ways in which you best connect with God. Share your results with your life group or ministry leader or a Christian friend and think together about ways to enhance your connection to God.

- √ Take time this week to do for a solitary walk, maybe outside in nature, maybe downtown or an art gallery. Walk slowly, quietly and observe. What do you see? What do you discover? Where do you see God? What do you notice that you didn't see before? Be conscious of your surroundings and quietly observe God in the midst of the noise.

- √ Sometimes we miss God because of the noise in our lives. Try a seven-day media fast. With the exception of work needs or emergency purposes, turn off your cell phone, television, gaming system and computer. Refuse to text friends, check e-mail, go to the movies and listen to the radio or your iPod. Use some of that time to be with God.

- √ Make a deliberate commitment this week (even for only this week) to take 20 minutes to read through the daily readings every day, to ask God to show you something about Himself in them and then to talk to God about whatever He reveals about Himself (even if that isn't anything). Notice the difference that even these brief encounters can make!



SOUTHRIDGE CHURCH

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RESOURCES:

[Sacred Pathways Assessment](#)

[Sacred Pathways, Gary Thomas](#)

[The Life You've Always Wanted, John Ortberg](#)

[God Is Closer Than You Think, John Ortberg](#)

[Celebration Of Discipline, Richard Foster](#)

[The End Of Religion, Bruxy Cavey](#)