

Weekly Study Guide

August 5, 2012

Daily Readings

Monday	Read Ephesians 5:18-21. In this passage, Paul exhorts us to be filled with the Spirit continuously in our lives as we speak encouraging words with one another, worship the Lord in our hearts, live with gratitude, and submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. How could you be more filled with the Spirit in your inner life? How would submitting to others out of reverence for Christ lead to more Spirit filled relationships for you? What is difficult about that for you?
Tuesday	Read Philippians 2:1-11. This passage speaks of having the mind of Christ and following His path in relationship to God and others. What opportunities is God giving you to grow in humility and Christ-likeness in your relationships? Spend some time asking the Lord to follow Christ in your relationships and in your attitude.
Wednesday	Read Genesis 1:27-31 and Genesis 2:4-24. In the opening chapters of the Bible, God gives a beautiful picture of the purpose of marriage. Why did God create marriage? Why is it so important and significant? Spend some time praying for people's marriages that you know. Pray that they would live more in tune with God's intention for marriage.
Thursday	Read Mark 10:1-9. Jesus affirms God's original intention for marriage in Genesis. God created us differently as male and female to come together to display the glory and goodness of God in the world. Two people leave their family of origin and become united together in every way to practice selfless love for one another. If you are married, what ways have you or do you need to leave your family of origin physically, emotionally, relationally in order to become united with your spouse? If you are not married, what ways is God transforming you in a way that goes beyond the values you learned from your family?
Friday	Read Ephesians 5:22-33. This passage gives us a vision of marriage that is growing in the Spirit of Jesus. Marriage is a beautiful, sacred gift from God between a man and woman meant to be a sign of the sacrificial love Christ has for the Church. Marriage is also difficult as two sinners learn to bring their lives together in unity. Paul acknowledges both the beauty and difficulty of marriage. What exhortations does Paul offer men? What exhortations does Paul offer women? How could these exhortations transform the cycles of control, distrust, and selfishness in marriage?
Saturday	Read John 4:1-26. In this passage, Jesus breaks through to the Samaritan woman in a new way. He confronts the wells she has been running to in order to satisfy her soul, and offers her the living water of the indwelling presence of His Holy Spirit, the well that will never run dry. In what ways do you look to others for approval, affirmation, and significance rather than to Jesus? Spend some time praying that God would fill you with His living water rather than running to empty wells.



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