

Weekly Study Guide

The Week of December 9, 2012

Daily Readings

Monday	Joshua 1:7-9	Tuesday	Jeremiah 31:31-34	Wednesday	Ezekiel 36:24-27
Thursday	John 16:12-15	Friday	Galatians 6:16-26	Saturday	Philippians 2:1-11

My notes on this week's readings...

Next Week in Worship

Next week's message: *Waiting for God's Presence*

Next week's readings: Isaiah 7:13-14, John 1:1-18

We may wait for the guidance or help of God, but more than anything else we wait for God's own presence. Join us next week for a special Christmas Concert of worship at 9 or 11 a.m. to celebrate the presence of God in our lives and in our Lord Jesus Christ.



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Group Discussion

Connect

How do you think you learn best?

Learn

Read Joshua 1:7-9. These are the words that God spoke to Joshua when he succeeded Moses as the leader of Israel on the way into the promised land.

- What is Joshua supposed to do with the book of God's law?
- What has been your most successful experience of reading and learning from the Bible?
- God promised Joshua that several blessings would come from his devotion to God's book of the law. What kinds of things do you hope will happen when you read the Bible?

Read Jeremiah 31:31-34 and **Ezekiel 36:24-27.** When God led Israel out of Egypt, he made a covenant with them, including a written code of law called Torah. In Jeremiah and Ezekiel, almost 1,000 years later, God said that he would make a new covenant with his people and lead them in a different way.

- What are the strengths and weaknesses of written laws?
- What are the strengths and weaknesses of a law that is written in our hearts and minds?
- Ezekiel 36:27 said that God would give his spirit to move his people to obey him. What are the contexts or conditions under which God's people can live without a written law?

The New Testament fulfills these expectations of the prophets. Instead of pointing Christians to a written law, the New Testament describes the leading of God's Spirit and points us to the example of Christ. **Read John 16:12-15, Galatians 6:16-26, and Philippians 2:1-11.**

- What helps you feel like God's Spirit might be leading you?
- What things help you to learn and follow the example of Christ?

Apply

- Do you sense that God is leading you to some kind of next step through this Bible study? How will you respond?
- Are there things you want to do to help you see or hear and follow the lead of Jesus in your life?

Pray

In addition to praying for one another's needs, you might use Ezekiel 36:27 as a prayer: "Put your Spirit in me, God, and move me to follow your will."