

Weekly Study Guide

The Week of November 25, 2012

Daily Readings

Monday	John 18:28-40	Tuesday	John 19:1-11	Wednesday	John 19:12-16
Thursday	John 19:17-27	Friday	Hebrews 12:1-3	Saturday	1 Corinthians 1:18-2:5

My notes on this week's readings...

Next Week in Worship

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

Next week's readings: Amos 5:23-24; Luke 4:14-30

Next week's message is the first message in a new series called *Waiting*. In our relationship with God, we often find ourselves waiting for God to act, to save, to answer prayers, or to fulfill His promises. Waiting can be hard. Join us next week as we learn from the Bible and the story of Jesus about waiting faithfully and hopefully for God.



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Group Discussion

Connect

What are some notable places where you have seen the symbol of the cross?

Learn

The book of Hebrews tends to emphasize the similarities between Jesus' life and ours. **Read Hebrews 12:1-3** for one example pertaining to Jesus' crucifixion.

- How does this passage describe or characterize Jesus' path through crucifixion? What features of that story are emphasized here?
- Among other things, this passage describes Jesus' course of action as being an example of "faith" (v. 2). How was Jesus' death an act of faith?
- The original readers or hearers of Hebrews were facing opposition. How would this message help them? Does it help you?

The book of 1 Corinthians was originally a letter from Paul to the ancient church in Corinth. This letter had to address a number of situations in which the Corinthians were acting pridefully. They tried to associate themselves with famous leaders (chapters 1 and 3); they bragged about their spiritual experiences (chapters 3 and 14); and the rich elevated themselves over the poor (chapter 11). **Read 1 Corinthians 1:18-2:5** to see how Paul grounded this letter in a special emphasis on the cross of Christ.

- Why or how do you think the story of the cross would be important or helpful in this letter?
- How does the message of the cross mean that we are depending on God's power and not our own (as in 2:2-5)?
- Do you think that you are tempted to find your identity in certain kinds of worldly success? How so? How could the message of the cross help you find your identity differently?

The Gospel of John helps us see clearly that Jesus' crucifixion was a matter of kingship. **Read John 19:12-16** for the climax of this story and theme. (John 18:33-40 also provides helpful perspective.) As part of the first century Jewish Passover liturgy, Jews would affirm their faith by saying to God, "We have no king but thee!" Now, on the day of Passover, John tells us that the chief priests of God's people said to the official representative of their pagan ruler, "We have no king but Caesar."

- We know that Jesus wasn't trying to set up a government as we understand that term. In what sense then do you think Jesus can be king?
- In what ways do the people of God now recognize and serve Jesus as king?
- What are some important ways that we fail to recognize Jesus' kingship? Do you think there's something that you, your community group, or your church should do about this?

Appl

What do you think God is trying to say to you through the message of Jesus, the crucified King? How should you respond to this?

Pray

In addition to the other prayer priorities in your group this week, please pray especially for those Christians who are walking the road of the cross. Pray that they will know the hope of God's victory, that they will persevere in faith, and that God will bring them through suffering to life and salvation.