

Weekly Study Guide

The week of June 30, 2013

Daily Readings

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| Monday | <p>Read Acts 8:1-3. Even the great apostle Paul (Saul) began by harming, not helping, God's church. How have you hurt other Christians in the past or present? Tell God about these things and know that God is full of grace and new opportunities.</p> <p>Prayer: Forgive me, God, for my sins, and use me as you wish.</p> |
| Tuesday | <p>Read Acts 8:4-8. Because of persecution, the Christian leaders had to flee from Jerusalem to many other places. As a result, the word of Jesus spread even more rapidly. Have you ever experienced a tragedy that turned out to serve God's purpose in your life?</p> <p>Prayer: Redeem the pain of my life, O Lord, and accomplish your will in me.</p> |
| Wednesday | <p>Read Acts 6:9-25. The book of Acts doesn't give a specific pattern or formula for receiving the Holy Spirit. It is the gift of God, and God seems to choose how and when to pour out His Spirit. What we do know is that the Spirit always connects people to Jesus and empowers them for ministry.</p> <p>Prayer: Fill me with your Spirit, O God, and empower me to serve you.</p> |
| Thursday | <p>Read Acts 8:26-29. The grace of God very often operates in the normal events of our everyday lives, but sometimes God leads us in unexpected ways. Listen today for God's leading and see if there's anybody that God is leading you toward.</p> <p>Prayer: Lead on, Holy Spirit, and I will follow.</p> |
| Friday | <p>Read Acts 8:30-35. This Ethiopian official was familiar with at least part of the Jewish Bible, particularly the prophet Isaiah. The New Testament quotes from Isaiah more than any other Old Testament book to explain the meaning of Jesus. Consider today whether you might want to read some passages from Isaiah to help you grow as a Christian. You might begin with Isaiah 53, the chapter quoted in this passage.</p> <p>Prayer: Teach me your word, Lord, and increase my understanding.</p> |
| Saturday | <p>Read Acts 8:36-40. Baptism was the entry rite into the Christian family, as it still is today. It signifies both washing (forgiveness) and the passage to a new life. If you have been baptized, remind yourself today of your identity in Christ and the new journey He has given you. If you have not been baptized and wish to be, please talk to one of our pastors about the opportunity to be baptized as a disciple of Jesus.</p> |



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