

Study Guide

Monday, February 15- Friday, February 19

This week's Study Guide is designed to help each of us, married or single, to consider the implications of our faith for our daily lives. These passages help us see the life Christ calls us to live. Allow each day's reading to be a time for you to invite the Holy Spirit to shape your life. Consider "praying the scriptures" - that is, restate the words you read in the Bible as a prayer from you to God - or allow the themes of the scriptures to become the very things you pray for and about. Enjoy!

Monday, February 15—Today we begin our study of the scriptures, and their implications for the marriage relationship, with the words of Jesus himself. The aim of this week's study guide readings is to ask, "What are the implications of being a Christian for my life, and the relationship between a man and woman?" Ask these questions as you read today's passages: **Read Matthew 5:13-16, Matthew 5:27-42 and Matthew 5:38-48.** Allow these scriptures to shape your prayer as you ask God to help you live these passages in your daily life.

Tuesday, February 16— We'll continue in today's readings with Jesus' Sermon on the Mount from Matthew's gospel. If you are married, consider the meaning of these scriptures for your relationship with your mate. If you are single, consider the significance of these scriptures for your life and the way you relate to others. **Read Matthew 6:19-34.** Allow these passages and the themes in them to become the outline of your prayer - ask for God's work in you so that you might live what Jesus is teaching.

Wednesday, February 17 – Once more we will turn to the teachings of Jesus as we open the scriptures today. **Read Matthew 7:1-5.** What are the implications for marriage found in this passage? Is there anyone in your life whose speck you have been trying to remove? What are the logs in your own eye? **Read Matthew 7:13-14.** What does this mean for you today? What does the narrow road look like? Are you walking on it? **Read Matthew 7:15-23.** This is a difficult word - Jesus is warning us to watch out for false prophets - but he is also asking us, "is your tree bearing good fruit?" **Read Matthew 7:24-27.** Ask God to help you build your life on the solid rock of Jesus' teaching and commitment to him.

Thursday, February 18 – Today we turn to Paul's letter to the Colossians. **Read Colossians 3:1-17.** What part of this passage of scripture speaks to you? Re-read verses 12-14 - use these as a prayer, asking God to help you live these verses. Notice the words of verses 15-17 - these verses paint a picture of how Christians should live in relationship with one another and what it means to grow in your faith. In Christian marriage, husband and wife seek to do these things (verses 12-17) towards one another.

Friday, February 19- Today you're invited to read an entire letter of the New Testament whose focus is the love Christians have for one another. **Read I John** (not the gospel of John, but the first letter of John found near the end of the New

Testament). What in this letter speaks to you? What do you learn about love from this letter?