

to others' opinions if His opinion was always visible on His face and spoken out loud?

- How easy is it for you to be patient in situations where defending yourself would be a more natural reaction? How do you normally respond to opposition? How does God want you to?
- What kinds of things have you sought in the past as keys to your fulfillment? How satisfying have they been? What kinds of things do satisfy you?

WEEK 8: JUNE 16-20 Job 1; Psalm 86

How do we navigate the tragedies of life? Nothing tests us more than suffering, and nothing drives us to God more quickly. The life of Job is a case study in unexplained trials and how to be faithful in the midst of them.

- In what ways have you experienced spiritual warfare in the last six months? What has your relationship with God been like during those experiences?
- To what extent are you aware of God's desire to establish His reputation in and through you? Does that fact cause you to feel honored? pressured? both?
- Why do you think Job was able to worship immediately after suffering tragedy?
- Is it possible to worship and grieve at the same time? How should a Christian balance or integrate these two attitudes?
- To what extent do you delight in God? How does your love for Him affect your struggles?

WEEK 9: JUNE 23-27 Proverbs 21:5; 22:7; 23:1-3;
Luke 12:13-21; 16:10-15

Many people believe they should have a holy contempt for financial issues, but the Bible is full of advice about money and wealth. And some of that advice is very practical; our stewardship is, to a large extent, a visible picture of the condition of our heart.

- Christians are called to plan wisely and to be willing to move with the directions of God's Spirit. How can we balance those two imperatives?
- What spiritual issues are related to debt? How do you think God feels about financial debt?
- How can you tell when a pleasure is God's gift and when it's a sinful indulgence?
- How materialistic do you think the Western church is in general? In what ways does materialism interfere with the kingdom of God?
- To what extent are our purchases and investments a spiritual issue? How aware are you of the spiritual side of money when you make a purchase?

A
RESOURCE
OF



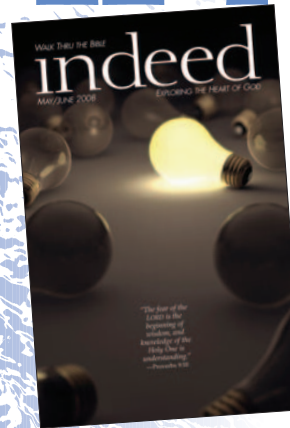
**WALK
THRU
THE
BIBLE**

4201 NORTH PEACHTREE ROAD
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30341
WWW.WALKTHRU.ORG
ORDERS 800.361.6131
PH 770.458.9300

WALK THRU THE BIBLE

indeed

SMALL GROUP STUDY
GUIDE FOR **INDEED**



GOING DEEPER WITH *indeed*

indeed can be used not only as a personal devotional guide, but also as a teaching or discussion tool for small groups. The following questions will help you go deeper with each week's readings, whether individually or in a group. More *indeed* resources can be found at www.indeedmagazine.org.

MAY/JUNE 2008

One of the greatest shapers of our wisdom, both positively and negatively, is fear. It has been said that if we fear God, we have no need to fear anything else. And, of course, the opposite is true: if we don't fear God, our actions will largely be determined by our fear of the future, of the opinions of others, and the enemy. We'll get rattled by unexpected circumstances and sudden conflict. Many of this issue's devotionals address our fear of God, our fear of others, and our fear of spiritual opposition—and how getting those in proper perspective puts much of our life in order.

WEEK 1: MAY 1-2 2 Timothy 3:10-15; 4:16-18

Scripture guarantees that you'll encounter some battles—not just the normal struggles of life, but also some conflicts instigated by dark, spiritual forces with a specific agenda: to get you off track and hinder the growth of God's kingdom.

- In what ways does Jesus protect us in our battles?
- In the inner recesses of your mind and heart, which seems greater to you: God's promise to win your battles or your ability to lose them? What examples from Scripture prove that the former is greater than the latter?

WEEK 2: MAY 5-9 Psalm 1, 49

This week focuses on two main issues: (1) what we delight in; and (2) what we trust in. The psalmist delights in God's law and trusts in God's promises.

- Do you experience God's instructions more as an external pattern to follow or an internal personality being developed? Why?

- Does Psalm 1 teach us anything about when to expect fruitfulness and maturity? What?
- Why do you think so many people put their trust in wealth?
- To what extent do your possessions own you rather than you owning them? What action can you take to effectively put things in the proper order?
- How often do you think of your decisions and activities as an investment in eternal riches? What can you do to become more eternally minded about the material side of life?

WEEK 3: MAY 12-16 Proverbs 8

Proverbs 8 is one of the best known chapters in the Bible's wisdom/poetic books. It's the voice of wisdom calling to the world, and the words describing wisdom sound quite a bit like the Holy Spirit. There's a reason for that: it's the Spirit who works God's wisdom into our minds and hearts.

- How is our attitude toward evil a good barometer of our relationship with God? Using that measure, how would you assess your fear of the Lord?
- Why does God see humanity's sin problem as a "parenthesis" rather than a perpetual issue?
- In what ways are you a product of God's wisdom? How does it make you feel to know you were in the mind of God before the world was created?
- In what ways is cancer or a degenerative disease a picture of sin's effects on our souls?
- What does it mean to experience God's favor?

WEEK 4: MAY 19-23 Colossians 3

We see the Spirit at work in the New Testament as He imparts wisdom to those who fellowship with Him and set their minds on the kingdom of God. As we do, our minds are renewed to think more and more like Him.

- What do you think Paul would have thought of the old saying about someone being "so heavenly minded that he's no earthly good"? Why?
- Why are our minds such a critical battlefield in the spiritual war?
- Why do you think God made it necessary for wisdom to be a collective experience rather than an individual one?
- Are you more impressed with Christians who do their work in the right spirit or who do work that bears a lot of fruit? Why? How do you think your perspective lines up with God's?
- In your daily work, are you more preoccupied with the difficulties of the tasks or with the opportunity to represent the Lord? Why?

WEEK 5: MAY 26-30 Ecclesiastes 1:1-11; 2:1-11; 3:12-14

Ecclesiastes can be a depressing book when it isn't read with the right lenses on. It's a picture of life "under the sun"—in a fallen world. There's wisdom in it, but its greatest benefit is in sending us in search of a Savior.

- Have you ever felt that life is meaningless? How does that kind of hopelessness affect a person?
- How would you complete the statement, "I'll be content when . . ."? Why do you think so many human beings are always looking for "the next thing" to make them happy?
- In what ways do people try to reconstruct Eden on earth? In what ways have you?
- How many people do you know who are satisfied with their job? Why do you think the majority of people don't find satisfaction in their work?
- How does the truth of Ecclesiastes 3:14 apply to your salvation? to your spiritual growth? to the promises He has given you?

WEEK 6: JUNE 2-6 Isaiah 26:7-11; 30:18; 48:17-19; 50:1-3

God has revealed Himself as our Teacher and Guide. His instructions are not only His desire for us, they would also be our desire for ourselves if we really understood them. Isaiah calls God's people to listen, to follow, and to want what God wants.

- Why do most people only seek God when they're in trouble? What would it take for us to grow deeper when we're not in a crisis?
- Why do you think God is so strongly drawn to humility? Why does He sometimes withhold grace until our pride is broken?
- How do you respond when your desires contradict God's desires for your life? Why do many people doubt that they will enjoy God's will for their life?
- How does God heal us from our regrets? What would it take for you to live regret-free from this point forward?
- What do impossible situations do to our faith? What benefit does God receive from our impossibilities? Why?

WEEK 7: JUNE 9-13 Isaiah 50:4-9; 51:7, 12-16; 54:15-17; 55:1-7

Isaiah continues to teach us of God's ways—how He speaks to us, teaches us obedience, strengthens us, and defends us. He makes His wisdom available to us in every circumstance.

- Do you agree that being teachable is the key to hearing God's voice? Why or why not?
- How would you answer the question of what your life would look like if you had no regard for anyone else's opinion?
- How would your life change if you were acutely aware that God is always in the room? What weight would you give