

Weekly Study Guide

December 4, 2016

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Desire to ask Pastor Steve a question about today's message? Contact him at 651.429.5349 x215 or sturnbull@flcwb.org.

Saturday

1. **Honesty.** Saturdays are for Sharing.

How long, Lord? Will you forget me forever?

How long will you hide your face from me?

How long must I wrestle with my thoughts

and day after day have sorrow in my heart?

How long will my enemy triumph over me?

Look on me and answer, Lord my God.

Give light to my eyes, or I will sleep in death,

and my enemy will say, "I have overcome him,"

and my foes will rejoice when I fall. (Psalm 13:1-4)

2. **Hope.** It's Saturday, but Sunday's coming.

But I trust in your unfailing love;

my heart rejoices in your salvation.

I will sing the Lord's praise,

for he has been good to me. (Psalm 13:5-6)

3. **Love.** God with us. I'm with you.

Things I'd like to remember about today's message...

Daily Readings

Monday

Acts 21:37-40

Thursday

Acts 24:1-27

Tuesday

Acts 22:1-29

Friday

Acts 25:13-22

Wednesday

Acts 22:30-23:35

Saturday

Acts 25:23-27

Regular habits of private Bible reading strengthen our relationship with God and teach us how to follow Jesus. In addition to the thematic exercise above, you can use this guide each week to lead you through relevant sections of the Bible.

Group Discussion Guide

CONNECT

What's the longest you have ever waited in line for something? What was it? Was it worth the wait?

LEARN AND APPLY

As the Friday on which Jesus was killed came to an end and turned into Saturday, a man named Joseph provided a tomb for Jesus' burial. Two of Jesus' disciples sat down outside the tomb. One of them was Mary Magdalene and the other was Mary of Bethany, the sister of Martha and Lazarus. **Read Matthew 27:57-61.**

- What do you think it was like to be those two Marys on that Saturday? Try to imagine what they were thinking and feeling.
- Have you ever had to sit and wait through a season of life like that Saturday, enduring something hard without being able to make it better by yourself?
- One of the most important things we can do in our "waiting" is to be honest about it in a trusted community. Are you living through any "Saturdays" right now? What's happening in your life, your community, or our world that you wish God would intervene to change?

In our ancient roots, in the Apostles' Creed we state our faith in Jesus who **"suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried."** The mention of Pontius Pilate doesn't mean that he was the only person responsible for Jesus' death, but this name provides a fixed point in history, a claim that Jesus' death is not a fable but a thing that happened in the real world. We are saying that we believe in a God who chose to share our Friday and Saturday before getting to Resurrection Sunday. *This* is how God chose to defeat evil.

- Does it make any difference in how you relate to Jesus to know that he has actually "been there"?
- Read 2 Corinthians 4:7-18. In v. 16, the Apostle Paul wrote "therefore, we do not lose heart." According to vv. 7-15 why can we hope and not lose heart, even when we are hard pressed, perplexed, persecuted, and struck down?
- Try to count the number of times Paul connects human suffering with Jesus' suffering and death in these verses.
- If we share in the sufferings of Jesus, what else do we also hope to share?

When we experience Saturdays, we learn to wait with Jesus. But in our waiting, we can also love others by moving toward their pain, so that we will be with them as Jesus is with us.

- Thinking outside your own experience and challenges, who else in your world is hurting or waiting through a Saturday for some kind of hope or help?
- What could you or your community do to love them? How could you be with them, even in situations where you can't solve the problem?

PRAY AND APPLY

One important way we can support each other on our Saturdays is to share our burdens and pray with and for each other. Share your prayer requests and take time to pray for one another in your group.

Psalm 13 is an ancient prayer from a time of long waiting. It gives words to our feelings of despair and then turns into words of hope, trusting in the love and character of God. You might begin your prayer time by praying along with the words of Psalm 13 and then praying for the particular needs of your group.