



SMALL GROUP WEEKLY
DEVOTIONAL MATERIAL



Week 2
13 - 19 June 2021

Daily Bible readings, a memory verse and a prayer for individual contemplation
Weekly worship song, reflection and small group questions

ARE YOU GOING THROUGH A MID-FAITH CRISIS?

CONTENT:

Sunday 13 June	Week 2	In the midst of all this evil, how can God be good?
Sunday 20 June	Week 3	Is Jesus really Saviour and Lord of the world?
Sunday 27 June	Week 4	I don't want to be part of a hypocritical church!
Sunday 4 July	Week 5	The church has lost the plot.
Sunday 11 July	Week 6	The church will never fulfill God's mission!
Sunday 18 July	Week 7	God sees me as a disappointment.
Sunday 25 July	Week 8	God don't call me



Sunday 13 June
Week 2
In the midst of all this evil, how can
God be good?

BIBLE READING:

Sunday 13 June Ruth 1:19-2:13; Psalm 16:1-11; Mark 10:17-22

PRAISE AND WORSHIP:

Oh, For a thousand Tongues to Sing by Charles Wesley
https://youtu.be/CFJvBwgmK_c

Reflection by Nangamso Mankai
Friends, we find ourselves engulfed with so much pain.

We find ourselves questioning who God is and why he is allowing us to go through so much pain. At times we find ourselves speaking the words spoken by Jesus on the cross when he said "Eloi, Eloi lama

sabachtani” (“My God, My God, Why have you forsaken me?”) We too find ourselves like Naomi perhaps “disfigured by the pain” (Ruth 1) - it has perhaps changed who we have known ourselves to be.

Let us turn our eyes to the Gospel of Luke. Luke is an author who focuses on heaven, who stresses the power of the Holy Spirit.

The reading from the book of Luke 12:16 onwards (The Rich Fool) shows a man who approached Jesus, he had the opportunity to meet Jesus and did not want to pass up the opportunity. According to the author this man had every material possession he could imagine but came to Jesus to ask how he could attain “eternal life”. Jesus’ response to the man is to point to God and God’s grace as the only thing that can help one achieve this. Jesus also points to the “10 commandments”, as a way of saying we must deny ourselves of sin in order to reach eternal life. Jesus then implores the man to “give up his material wealth” in order to gain the Kingdom’s blessings. Jesus in this passage reminds us that our identity in the Kingdom and therefore our way to attain “eternal life” is to deny ourselves things of the earthly realm and rather focus on the spiritual realm.



Athi uMshumayeli womXhosa – “Thixo mandinciphe mna, kwande wena” (They say in Xhosa: O God let me be less and you more) – a call recited many a time for us to deny the physical so that we may attain the spiritual blessings. Jesus asks this man to consider his spiritual wealth rather than his physical wealth – in fact he tells him to discard it because our spiritual presence is far more important than our physical. We are spirit before we are physical beings.

To go back to our opening paragraph, Naomi’s blessing came not because she was worthy in terms of worldly standards (in fact far from it) but it came because of who she was in God’s eyes. By denying ourselves the physical we too can move into eternal life as Jesus did and our physical suffering and loss can lead us to eternal life.

Friends, I don’t know what your identity has been attached to or how pain has changed how you see yourself or what you have been fixated on but God is saying right now – leave the physical attributes and focus on your spiritual wealth because THAT will gain you eternal life. We do not need to be sad as this man was after being told to give up his physical wealth because as God grows us spiritually, we know he will meet us at our weakest – as he says in Paul’s letter to the Corinthians – it’s when we are weak that His strength is shown. God is our strength; our eternal life is precious to Him.

Yanga uThixo woXolo, uThixo wozuko anganisikelela omnye nomnye (May the peace of God be with you and the Glory of God bless you one by one) now and forever. Amen

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS:

1. Has the pain you have experienced changed your identity of yourself? How do you remind yourself of who God says you are and not your circumstances?
2. What is it that you are willing to give up in order to receive eternal life?
3. What single lesson can you take from this week’s gospel to apply to your daily life over the next 7 days?
4. Naomi trusted God to “fix her pain and he did. What can you be grateful for that God has fixed in your life in the past? Remind yourself so you can be reminded of His love.



DAILY BIBLE READING:

Monday

Memory Verse: Psalm 34:1-8 “I sought the Lord and he heard me”

Prayer: Father, we pray that even in our difficulties we may continue to seek You.

Tuesday

Memory Verse: Romans 12:2 “That you may prove what is good and acceptable and perfect will of God”

Prayer: Holy Spirit we pray that even as we face daily challenges, we continue to live in righteousness.

Wednesday

Memory Verse: Hebrews 11:4-7 “But without faith, it is impossible to please Him”

Prayer: Holy Spirit, we seek to please You. May we continually remained in soaked in faith, may our faith grow and teach us to lean on You.

Thursday

Memory Verse: Exodus 33:18-23 “Please show me your glory”

Prayer: Lord as we find ourselves in difficulties, we ask you to show your glory in the midst of it all.

Friday

Memory Verse: Psalm 145:8-9 “The Lord is good to all and His tender mercies are over all His works”

Prayer: Lord, may we remember that despite what the world calls us, your mercy is available to us all.

Saturday

Memory Verse: James 1:16-18 “Every good and perfect gift is from above”

Prayer: Father, we pray that we remember that only You can give us blessings and that it is never by our own power.



It is important for parents to take time to lead the conversations of family time and to be honest with their children in these conversations.

BY JENNY BLAKE – CHILDREN'S PASTOR
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Sunday 13th June

Pray daily: Set up family time for prayer and devotions and stick to this arrangement. All devotions should always begin by with a prayer. Ask a family member to pray or one of the children.

Scripture Reading: Mark 10:17-22

Allow children/teens to read out loud for the family.

Activity/Family Moment:

Discuss what you thought of the scripture reading.

A few questions:

Does God dislike people who have lots of money? (no)

What do you think people should do, if they have more than enough money, with their money? Can these people glorify God?

What do you think of people who are corrupted by money after reading this passage?

Activity:

We may have lots of money or not very much. We can still help the poor.

Have a look through your cupboards and see if there are any items of clothing that do not fit, or you no longer want or toys that's you no longer play with and donate it to church or a local charity.

If you are able to do more things why not buy some stationary for a local school, as June 16th is in a few days, pack the goods together as a family and drop off the items as a family.