

## LEAD SHEET LENT WEEK THREE SUFFERING

### “What’s going on?”

We’re working hard to try and stay connected as a faith family. Here are 2 ways we can connect.

1. Check out our **Facebook Live noontime interviews**. Brady sits down with different individuals for around 30 minutes to discuss various topics. Make sure to join us!
2. Pastor Lynn Gallagher has connected with various churches around Quincy to coordinate the ringing of their church bells to remind us to pray. Originally, we were to set an alarm and pray at 7pm, but we have made the switch to **6pm**. Keep your ears open and listen for the bells and set a reminder on your phone to pray!

We’re continuing to monitor the situation surrounding the Illinois *stay at home* order. Our Sunday services are continuing to change as we comply with our government officials. Thank you for working hard to make LifePoint a part of your Sunday!

### ICE BREAKER

What are some things that you are doing to help you cope with the pandemic?

### LAST WEEK’S CHALLENGE

Last week we focused on humility and our challenge was to ask the Spirit of God every day to show us ways that we demand to be right, desire to be recognized or find our identity in our “performance” - to reveal areas of pride in our lives and to spend time in confession and repentance. How did the week go?

### LEAD SHEETS DURING LENT

Our lead sheets during Lent will follow the same format as our Lenten devotional. Would anyone like to share something God showed you this past week while doing the devotions?

### SUFFERING

This week’s theme was suffering. On Saturday (Day 22) of this week’s study, the author reminded us that ultimately, suffering is about learning to receive whatever God has placed in our hands as his goodness for us today. The paradox of suffering is that it is actually a gift - one that we might like at times to give back – but a gift nonetheless. God gives us suffering as a way

of giving us himself, for it is in our suffering that we become acutely aware of his presence and power. Hardship empties us of our self-reliance so that we might walk in the Spirit, who “bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs – heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him” (Romans 8:16-17).

For Jesus, the journey to the cross was a gift. Gethsemane and Golgotha were gifts to receive, which is why he had to say, “Not what I will, but what you will” (Mark 14:36) and taught us to pray, “Your kingdom come, your will be done” (Matthew 6:10), because if we are not looking for God’s kingdom to come, we will always be looking back for our kingdom gone.

*Spend a few minutes sharing with your group a time when God used suffering in your life to mature your faith.*

### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

Psalm 19:7-11 The Voice (VOICE)

<sup>7</sup> The Eternal’s law is perfect,  
turning lives around.

His words are reliable and true,  
instilling wisdom to open minds.

<sup>8</sup> The Eternal’s directions are correct,  
giving satisfaction to the heart.

God’s commandments are clear,  
lending clarity to the eyes.

<sup>9</sup> The awe of the Eternal is clean,  
sustaining for all of eternity.

The Eternal’s decisions are sound;  
they are right through and through.

<sup>10</sup> They are worth more than gold—  
even more than abundant, pure gold.

They are sweeter *to the tongue* than honey  
or the drippings of the honeycomb.

<sup>11</sup> In addition *to all that has been said*,  
Your servant will find, *hidden in Your commandments*, both a strong warning  
and a great reward for keeping them.

## **C O N F E S S I O N**

Merciful God, we have not loved you with all our heart and mind and strength and soul.

Lord, have mercy.

We have not loved our neighbors as you have taught us.

Christ, have mercy.

We are indifferent to the saving grace of your Word and life.

Lord, have mercy.

You have told us to lay up our treasure in heaven but instead we have trusted in our treasures on earth.

Lord, have mercy.

Forgive and heal us by your steadfast love made known to us in the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

## **G O S P E L   O F   M A R K**

### **Read Mark 11:27-33 (ESV)**

<sup>27</sup> And they came again to Jerusalem. And as he was walking in the temple, the chief priests and the scribes and the elders came to him, <sup>28</sup> and they said to him, “By what authority are you doing these things, or who gave you this authority to do them?” <sup>29</sup> Jesus said to them, “I will ask you one question; answer me, and I will tell you by what authority I do these things. <sup>30</sup> Was the baptism of John from heaven or from man? Answer me.” <sup>31</sup> And they discussed it with one another, saying, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’” <sup>32</sup> But shall we say, ‘From man?’—they were afraid of the people, for they all held that John really was a prophet. <sup>33</sup> So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And Jesus said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things.”

1. What do you think the motive was of the religious leaders in this passage?
2. Jesus ALWAYS knows the motive of the heart. In what ways does your life reflect your respect for Jesus’ authority in your life?
3. In what ways have the events of the past week revealed to you about where you put your trust?
4. Has God revealed any areas where you struggle submitting to His Lordship?
5. When you ask advice of others, do you seek someone who will give you answers based on God’s truth or answers that make you feel better about your choices or some of both?

### **Read Mark 12:28-34 (ESV)**

<sup>28</sup> And one of the scribes came up and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, asked him, “Which commandment is the most important of all?” <sup>29</sup> Jesus answered, “The most important is, ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. <sup>30</sup> And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ <sup>31</sup> The second is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.” <sup>32</sup> And the scribe said to him, “You are right, Teacher. You have truly said that he is one, and there is no other besides him. <sup>33</sup> And to love him with all the heart and with all the understanding and with all the strength, and to love one's neighbor as oneself, is much more than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.” <sup>34</sup> And when Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, “You are not far from the kingdom of God.” And after that no one dared to ask him any more questions.

1. What did Jesus say is the most important commandment?
2. How did you show your love for God this week?
3. What evidence in your life shows that you are putting God first?
4. What did Jesus say is the second greatest commandment?
5. Who is your neighbor?
6. What are some ways that you loved your neighbor this week?
7. What challenges have you experienced with social distancing and loving your neighbor?

### **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Lord God, the earth is yours along with everything in it. You are the Creator and Sustainer – to you is due all praise and honor and glory. Who are we that you are mindful of us? Who are we that you should set your seal of ownership upon us and put your Spirit inside us? Our lips shall speak of your praise!

## **DAILY DEVOTION**

This week we were challenged through the devotion section to look at suffering. We were challenged in the following areas – share with your group what the Spirit revealed to you this week.

- How does the reality of suffering challenge your faith?
- How have you tried to explain suffering?
- How does Jesus's death and resurrection give you strength and hope?
- What fears do you have regarding suffering? What promises of God speak to those fears?

## **CLOSING PRAYER**

Fill me with your Spirit that I may overflow with your presence. May your comforts cheer me in my sorrow, your strength sustain me in my trials, your faithfulness revive me in my weariness, your presence fill me with peace and joy, your Holy Word encourage me to be ceaseless in prayer. Search my heart and reveal to me areas of self-reliance that I may confess, repent and cling to you as my only hope.

## **THIS WEEK'S CHALLENGE**

Start each day in prayer this week – asking the Spirit of God to show you how to spend your day. Write down what He reveals to you. Each night as you go to bed, reflect on where you saw God in your day and give him thanks.