



THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURES

Psalm 10:1, 13:1-5, 22; Mark 6:14-29
James 5:7-11; Proverbs 19:21; Romans 8:28

DAY 1

Read [Psalm 10:1, 13:1-5](#)

Bumps and bruises are part of life. Being a person of faith does not exempt you from the travails of what lies ahead.

- **Why do you think so many believers struggle with this? It appears we are fine if life is going great but when things are tough, believers struggle with issues of faith. Why?**
- **Think of a time you found yourself living in the words of the Psalms listed above. There are moments when you feel as though God is inattentive to your situation.**
- **What do you learn from Psalm 13?**

DAY 2

Read [Psalm 22](#)

Too many times we feel as though God seems inattentive, late, and uncooperative. Let's acknowledge there are many times God doesn't make sense-and if that wasn't tough enough, we must balance that with the stories of people who had a different experience. In their case, God showed up when they needed him, God met the need they cried out for, and cooperated with them. Sometimes the miracles

sought happen - but what about when they don't? It's natural to ask, why is God responding to someone else and not to me?

- **When you feel as though God isn't listening to you, what do you do? How do you cope with those instances when God's timing wasn't your timing-God's plan wasn't your plan?**
- **What can you learn from the Psalm 22?**

DAY 3

Pastor Bob shared the story of John the Baptist. This faithful servant of the Lord did everything the Lord asked in preparing the people for the coming of the Messiah. John was a shining example of keeping God's ways his ways and living a life in obedience to God. Yet, John's life was not exempt from tragedy. He finds himself arrested and wondering if Jesus really cares.

Read Mark 6:14-29

- **Looking at what happened to John the Baptist, why do you think Jesus did not come to him?**
- **When was there a time you felt God was inattentive to your needs?**
- **How do you reconcile those moments when you struggle with your plans not being God's plans?**

DAY 4

Read James 5:7-11

- **James mentions we are to have patience and stand firm in our times of uncertainty. In what ways do you practice patience when life is out of control?**
- **What does it mean to not be patient, but instead, to be reckless in your suffering?**

- **How is God preparing you to be patient in your times of need? How is God making himself visible to you even when you can't see him?**

DAY 5

Read [Proverbs 19:21](#), [Romans 8:28](#)

One of the great challenges in living through those times you feel God is not attentive to your needs is to understand God's plan. As Wesleyan thinkers we do not follow a reformed theology which says God wills things into our life, and that we do not have any say over life's circumstances. We believe in free will. We also believe that when pain and trials come, God is not the cause of our suffering, but he can make something good come out of our pain.

- **Considering this understanding, how do you interpret Proverbs 19:21?**
- **How can life's challenges be used to make you a better person?**
- **Think of a time in your life when God's desire for your life prevailed over your own desires. What came from that situation? In hindsight can you understand God's will any better than you did in the moment?**
- **In Romans 8:28, Paul shares some powerful words. How is God working for the good of you, who love him and are called to his purpose?**

DAY 6

Reflect on your readings for this week and spend some time in prayer. Ask God to give you the patience and obedience to accept his will and his timing.