



"Putting on the Pads"

Devotional Guide for November 30-December 6

Monday, November 30 Read Psalm 80:1-7; 17-19

Part of the problem for the people of Israel was that they had placed their faith in sources of worldly strength-wealth, alliances, fame, and all those things had failed them. This psalm reflects a desperate return to the One who had been faithful. This Advent, take some time to reflect on what you place your hope in.

Tuesday, December 1 Read Isaiah 64:1-9

Sometimes we say we want to see God but the truth is in that all powerful light all our excuses and rationalizations are stripped away. True hope comes when we are honest before God and He can get to the heart of what we are and what we need. Prayerfully consider: what are your true needs? How is God providing them?

Wednesday, December 2 Read Mark 13:24-37

Like those who hoped for the Messiah 2000 years ago, we too wait and hope for His return and look for signs that it will be soon. But if the signs are misleading or unclear, what does this passage say we are to do? _____

_____ In practical terms, what does it look like to "live ready?" _____

Thursday, December 3 Read 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

The root of our hope as Christians is that we are not alone. Through the Holy Spirit Christ is ever at work in our lives and, if we let him, will direct, guide and support us. What are some of the ways you have



"Putting on the Pads"

been "enriched" in Christ and what are some of the ways He has been your strength and hope?

Say a prayer of thanksgiving today.

Friday, December 4 Read Jeremiah 13:14-16

The promised hope here is one of safety, justice and righteousness... things that are seemingly in short supply in Jeremiah's time. In what ways do we hope for those same things?

_____ How is Jesus and Jesus' way a fulfillment of those hopes and why are they so hard to attain? _____

Saturday, December 5 Read Psalm 25:1-10

How can taking seriously the request in vv.4-5 nurture hope and confidence in us? _____ What is your understanding of the meaning of "God's Way" used in this psalm?

_____ How does following that way look in your life and experience?

Notes for last Sunday's Sermon: ***"Putting on the Pads"***

1. Hope is nurtured when we are properly prepared.
2. Preparation means putting effort into things necessary for achieving the goal.
3. Our goal is a deeper relationship with God.



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Small Group Discussion Guide

December 6, 2020

1. **Read Psalm 80:1-7 and 17-19 out loud.** Share: "Part of the problem for the people of Israel was that they had placed their faith in sources of worldly strength-wealth, alliances, fame, and all those

things had failed them. This psalm reflects a desperate return to the One who always had been faithful." Ask and discuss:

- In what ways do we fall into the same trap? Give some specific examples.
- In the bustle of this season, what should we put our trust in and how? (*Note: the right answer is 'God,' but the point here is to wrestle with specific ways and actions by which we live out that trust and faith!*)

2. **Read Mark 13:24-37** Share and discuss:

- Like those who hoped for the Messiah 2000 years ago, we too wait and hope for His return and look for signs that it will be soon. But if the signs are misleading or unclear, what does this passage say we are to do?
- In practical terms, what does it look like to "live ready?"

3. **Have someone read Jeremiah 13:14-16.** Share: "The promised hope here is one of safety, justice and righteousness...things that are seemingly in short supply in Jeremiah's time." Ask and discuss:

- In what ways do we hope for those same things?
- How is Jesus and Jesus' way a fulfillment of those hopes and why are they so hard to attain?

4. **Read 1 Corinthians 1:3-9 .** Share and discuss: "The root of our hope as Christians is that we are not alone. Through the Holy Spirit, Christ is ever at work in our lives and, if we let him, will direct, guide and support us. "

- What are some of the ways you have been "enriched" in Christ and what are some of the ways He has been your strength and hope?

5. **Review and discuss the following points from last Sunday's sermon.**

A. **Hope is nurtured when we are properly prepared.**

- *Do you agree or disagree with this statement? What are some of the ways we can be prepared so as to kindle hope within us?*

B. **Preparation means putting effort into things necessary for achieving the goal.**

- *What things are truly necessary for us as we go through advent? With your group, try to discover specific ways we can develop proper priorities this season.*

C. **Our goal is a deeper relationship with God.**

- *How is building a stronger relationship with God a way to build stronger and better relationships with the people in our lives?*