

BEFORE WE GO

A podcast sharing years of wisdom, insights and humor from the ministry team of David & Karen Mains.

SCRIPTURE & REFLECTION QUESTIONS –WK7

Read Hebrews 4:14–16

1. What does this passage teach about the ability of Jesus to identify with your struggles?
2. How might your view of Jesus be different if you weren't aware that He suffered as you have?
3. Noticing that Jesus was "tempted in every way, just as we are," how does this fact give you courage to face your present situation?
4. Do you tend to forget the privilege that is yours of taking your struggles to the Lord? And what can you do to remind yourself of this incredible resource?
5. Is this presently a time of special need for you or someone you know? In a few words, express your concern to the Lord.

Read Philippians 2:5–11

1. What do verses 5–8 indicate about the ability of Jesus to identify with your struggles? Think of a confusing aspect of your life. Why is it easier to trust Jesus knowing that He truly understands your situation?
2. This passage encourages us to imitate Jesus' humility and submission. Write down one or two ways you can be more of a servant this week.
3. Verse 10 reads that "at the name of Jesus every knee shall bow." Who is someone you know who doesn't recognize Christ as Lord? What is something meaningful you might do to help this individual appreciate Christ's love for him or her?
4. Verses 6–11 were probably based on an early Christian hymn. Are you familiar with a song that expressed a similar idea? How can you bring it to mind throughout the day and let it remind you of the Lord's suffering on your behalf?
5. Verse 7 in The Message reads that Christ "set aside the privileges of deity." What "privileges" can you set aside today on behalf of someone else?

Read Hebrews 11:32–12:4

1. What quality of life characterized the witnesses written about in chapter 11 of Hebrews? Define what that word means.
2. If you are to be like these spiritual heroes, upon whom should you “fix your eyes”?
3. Put into your own words what you believe this “great cloud of witnesses” has to say to you.
4. According to verse 8, what mindset will keep us from growing weary and losing heart?
5. In your struggles, what is the closest you have come to shedding your blood like your Lord did?

Read Isaiah 53:1–12

1. How do you respond when someone tells you, “I understand totally the suffering you are going through”?
2. What is your response when a minister tells you that Jesus fully understands the troubles you are experiencing?
3. What sins did Jesus commit that made it necessary for Him to suffer as this passage describes?
4. If it wasn't because of His own sins, what is the reason Christ had to suffer as He did?
5. Go over these twelve verses again. This time, read the words much slower than you did before. What stands out this second time through the passage?

Read Hebrews 2:14–18

1. According to these verses, why did Jesus take on a human body?
2. How does knowing that Jesus was fully human shape your view of Him as a savior?
3. Review the passage and look for how Christ is able to sympathize with you as a human being. How is this meaningful in your present situation?
4. What is presently the greatest area of confusion in your life? Thank God for His great love and care for you, knowing that He can quickly relate to your problem and is desirous of helping you through your maze.
5. Think about the various ways Christ suffered in His last week of life. Consider His betrayal, loneliness, rejection, humiliation, agony and terrible death. Which of these aspects of suffering are you most able to identify with? Explain.