

**“First Watch” Touch Points for Evangel’s Prayer Vigil team**  
**For the week of April 17, 2016**

**When You Think You Can’t Cope**

*The current series of Touch Points is taken from “Time Out in Tough Times,” from the editors of Guide-posts (MIF Books, 2009). The reflections come from a variety of writers.*

**READ:** The Lord is my rock and my fortress. . . . *Psalm 18:2*

**REFLECT:** On a trip to Israel, our guide pointed out in the Jericho area some tiny, rabbit-like animals scurrying into crevices in the rockbound hillsides. “Those are coney,” he explained. “They are mentioned in the Old Testament.”

He went on to tell us that the coney are defenseless animals whose only protection against predators is the rocks in which they hide. “Very smart, those coney,” he said, shaking his head. “In those rocks, no large animals could dig them out.”

Later I started thinking, *we all could learn from the little coney.*

When the storm clouds gather and we are not sure how to cope, we can stay out and try to weather the buffeting storm all by ourselves . . . or we can seek a rocklike shelter, where we are safe and protected until the skies clear.

*Sam Justice*

**PRAY:** *Father, show me how to take shelter in You. Give me a word from Your Word to see me through this rough time.*

**DO:** Provide a safe place for a friend who is having trouble coping. Speak an encouraging word; share a Scripture; pray for and with your friend.

**ADDITIONAL PRAYER PROMPTS**

- Use the Pause to Pray as a guide to focus on other concerns through the week. Copies can be found in the lobby and in the Archive section on the website ([evbapt.org/archive](http://evbapt.org/archive)). The full Pause to Pray is used in our Wednesday prayer time. An abbreviated version appears in the Sunday bulletin.
- Reflect on this week’s worship service—the music, Scripture, Pastor Dave’s message\*—that all will help as you go through this week; for your own walk with Christ, and that you may be a blessing and witness to people you have contact with during the week.
- Continue to pray for opportunities to invite people to our services and to become engaged in spiritual discovery with the people of Evangel in other ways as well. Ask the Lord to open doors of conversation, connection and compassion with others to enable that engagement this week.
- Pray that God will bless our succession planning efforts (Pastor Dave and Jennie anticipate retirement, tentatively late spring 2017). Pray specifically for a meeting this week with a potential church partner, as well as our Search Team, another church that expressed interest, and for two upcoming Open Forums in May during the LIFE Time hour. See the Succession Planning page on our [website](http://www.evangel.org), with additional updates and information to help you better understand our succession planning process.

*\* A podcast of the sermon and other materials will be posted on the website by Monday.*

*Touch Points is e-mailed every Friday, posted on the website ([www.evangel.org](http://www.evangel.org)), with printed copies available in the lobby. To be included in the weekly e-mail, use the Contact Us form on the website and request “add me to the Prayer Vigil list.”*