

“First Watch” Touch Points for Evangel’s Prayer Vigil team
For the week of September 4, 2016

When the Bible Seems Dry and Meaningless

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 in His holy temple. Let all the earth keep silence before Him . . . *Habakkuk 2:20*

REFLECT: There are days I open my Bible to read and fall into a desert. This morning I was standing outside the walls of Jerusalem with the fiery prophet Jeremiah, lambasting the callous high priest. The biblical scene, set in an ancient world six hundred years before the birth of Christ, seemed foreign and irrelevant to my life and needs. I nearly stopped reading. I did not want to stroll through the arid dust of history.

When I finished my Bible reading and wrote in my journal, I found these words flowing across the page: “Sometimes I read the Bible and there is nothing there. Only silence. Yet, even in that still silence I am strengthened; I am drawn to a holy presence. It’s like two good friends who sit quietly alone, content in each other’s company.”

God is such a friend. He does not speak at my demand. But as I grow older, I find I need less of His voice and more of His presence. Just to know that He is with me is enough. *Scott Walker*

PRAY: *Dear Father, I’ll be still with You today.*

DO: Read what you would normally consider a dry and meaningless portion of Scripture. See what relevancy to your life you can find in it.

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). 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, “On the Road Again” (1 Kings 17:7-8), continuing his series on the prophet Elijah—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). See Pause to Pray for specific prayer requests. See the Succession Planning page on our website, with additional updates and information to help you better understand our succession planning process. Pray for the leadership of the church considering the purchase of our property as they evaluate the recent appraisal and consider the feasibility of moving forward, with a response expected this month. [The church name is withheld here, but has been shared with the church family in an email update].

* A podcast of the sermon and PDF files of other material will be posted on the website by Monday.

Touch Points is e-mailed every Friday, posted on the website (zqa041), 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.”