

When All Seems Lost

October 2022 (2 October - 29 October)



This month our theme is 'When All Seems Lost'. Throughout scripture we are encouraged to never give up, even if the circumstances we find ourselves in seem impossible. Our God has a history of making rough paths smooth and bringing healing into the most difficult of situations. Faith, gratitude, perseverance, and humility, these are words that Jesus often used to describe the citizens of his kingdom.

We're going to use a different excerpt from Luke's Gospel at the beginning of each week to help us reflect upon these words and the remainder of the daily readings.

Each week of the four week theme runs Sunday-Saturday and has its own subtheme, which contains daily Bible readings and prompts for thought.

When all seems lost — the impossible happens — Don't Forget FAITH (2 October)

Write seven prayers and reflections based on the scripture texts below.

1. Luke 17: 5-10
 2. Lamentations 1: 1-6
 3. Lamentations 3: 19-28
 4. Psalm 137: 1-9 & Luke 17: 3-4
 5. Habakuk 1:1-4, 2: 1-4
 6. Psalm 37: 1-9
 7. 2 Timothy 1: 1-14
1. **The Parable of the Mustard Seed.** A small amount of faith can bring about great change.
 2. **Lament has purpose.** Lament is about faith and healing — reminding us of what has been lost but giving courage for the future.
 3. **Lament contains hope.** Lament brings God to mind, all is not lost.
 4. **Faith lifts us up beyond revenge.** Contrast this psalm with Jesus teaching on forgiveness.
 5. **Faith demands patience.** We can question God — Faith stands in anticipation.
 6. **Faith instills confidence.** The righteous live by faith.
 7. **Faith can be stirred up.** Faith is nurtured through confession.

When all seems lost — Healing can happen — Don't forget GRATITUDE (9 October)

Write seven prayers and reflections based on the scripture texts below.

1. Luke 17: 11-19
 2. Jeremiah 29: 1, 4-7
 3. Psalm 66: 1-12
 4. 2 Kings 5: 1-15
 5. 2 Timothy 2: 8-25
 6. 1 Thessalonians 5: 16-18
 7. Psalm 136: 1
1. **Gratitude is commended.** Healing didn't depend on gratitude. Grace gives without seeking a return. Gratitude is an honest response to undeserved love.
 2. **Making the most of your circumstances.** The importance of gratitude.
 3. **Gratitude shapes the fire and the rain.** Living a life of praise in all circumstances, that is gratitude.
 4. **From despair to gratitude.** Healing is encountered through humility and gratitude.
 5. **When all seems lost — He is with us.** Gratitude that arises out of knowing God is with us
 6. **Gratitude is the DNA of the believer.** Gratitude shapes our actions.
 7. **The goodness of God demands the gratitude of humanity.** The nature of God draws from us the response of gratitude.

When all seems lost — God hears our prayers — Don't forget PERSEVERANCE (16 October)

Write seven prayers and reflections based on the scripture texts below.

1. Luke 18: 1-8
 2. Jeremiah 31: 27-34
 3. Psalm 119: 97-104
 4. Genesis 32: 22-31
 5. Psalm 121
 6. 2 Timothy 3:14-4:5
 7. Galatians 6: 9
1. **To pray is to persevere.** Ask why does justice take so long? In the light of verse 8.
 2. **The promise of God's presence.** Does the promise of God's presence speed up justice?
 3. **The promise of God's law in our hearts.** The law in our hearts by the power of the Holy Spirit changes our understanding of law versus grace.
 4. **To strive for a new beginning.** Jacob had to persevere to be reconciled to God before he was reconciled to his brother. Jesus has reconciled us to God and each other.
 5. **Perseverance occurs because of hope.** The psalmist will not allow himself to believe anything less of God. God is our helper and keeper.
 6. **Hold on to your calling.** Be inspired to stand firm, you have travelled this length, now is not the time to turn back.
 7. **The harvest is assured.** When all seems lost we are usually weary and ready to give up. The promise is there will be fruit for our labours.

When all seems lost — God honours the outcast — Don't forget HUMILITY (23 October)

Write seven prayers and reflections based on the scripture texts below.

1. Luke 18: 9-14 1. **Beware of self promotion.** Contrast the characters in the parable and their prayers.
2. Joel 2: 23-32 2. **Raising the humble to new heights.**
3. Psalm 65 3. **Getting a right perspective of God and ourselves.** Shouting and singing for joy.
4. Jeremiah
14:7-16,19-22 4. **The humility of confession.**
5. Psalm 84 5. **The longing of the humble spirit.** Being a doorkeeper in the house of the Lord.
6. 2 Timothy 4: 6-8,
16-18 6. **A confident humility.**
7. 1 Peter 5: 6-10 7. **Humility is the key to unity and blessing.** Working together..