WOODVALE
PENTECOSTAL CHURCH

Connect Group Sermon Aligned Notes

Sermon Title: How To Get Through Your Darkest Days
Key Scripture: Isaiah 50:1, 3-4 & 10-11
Recorded Sermon: www.woodvale.ca/pastservices/how-to-get-through-your-darkest-days
Date + Speaker: June 9, 2024; Pastor Mark Scarr

The BIG IDEA: Dark times are inevitable and sometimes imposed on us by God. We need to cultivate and strengthen our faith in God as a preparation to navigate these inevitable challenges.

Starter Question:

1. If you could press a button to eliminate all past, present and future dark times in the life of the person sitting next to you, would you?

Discussion Questions to Review (observation):

2. Read Isaiah 50:3 What celestial features are easier to see when the 'heavens are clothed in darkness' than during the day? Are these features typically appreciated by most people?

Discussion Questions for Digging Deeper (interpretation and application)

3. Read Isaiah 50:3 and Job 19:8 What is your instinct when seeing the most devoted Christians experience the deepest darkness? Do you find it justifiable for God to purposefully shroud the paths of His devoted children in darkness?

4. Read Isaiah 50:4 What valuable insights have you discerned during the challenging 'valley' moments of your life that you might not have fully appreciated during the smoother 'mountain' times'?

5. Read Isaiah 50:10, Psalm 23:4 and Psalm 91 It is evident that a steadfast faith in God can guide us through life's inevitable trials. However, why is it

challenging to cultivate a profound and resilient faith without facing hardships? What strategy can you implement in your spiritual journey to fortify yourself for times of darkness?

6. Read Isaiah 50:11 What dangers/consequences have you seen when you or those in your circle light their own fires to push through the darkness instead of waiting on God?

7. Read Isaiah 50:4b, Psalm 30:5b and Psalm 91:15-16 How can these verses encourage you during dark times about how the story ultimately ends?

<u>Tips for Leaders:</u>

Question 2: Other options besides the stars and moon mentioned during the service: constellations, planets such as Venus, Mars, Jupiter, and Saturn, galaxies with the help of telescopes, meteor showers, satellites, northern and southern lights….

Question 5: Life's trials will stretch your faith and make it deeper and stronger. Strategies:

a) *Faith comes by hearing the Word of God. Preemptively meditate on faith-building Scripture before dark times appear.*

b) *b) Hold on to God's promises, and do not forget His previous good deeds. Do not doubt in the dark what you learned in the light.*

Question 6: members can choose to use Bible stories if they would rather not share personal stories.