Bible Reading Together during this Covid-19 Shutdown

February 21-27: Read **1 Samuel 16, Psalm 23 & Gospel of Matthew 27**

1 Samuel 16

The chapter is titled "David anointed as king." This is the story of prophet Samuel going to Bethlehem to find and anoint the second king of Israel. This was a risky move because Saul was still in power and he had his own idea on who would replace him.

Further Study & Discussion

- God rejected Saul as the king of Israel. Do you know the story of Saul and why God was disappointed at him?

- Samuel is led by God to Jesse's home where his sons are brought to him one at a time. He's the prophet of God, but even he got it wrong (v.7)! Recount the story and talk about how our human ideas at times differ from God's ways.

- Why did David stand out? How is this like the Gospel?

Psalm 23

Perhaps the most famous psalm of all, it's a beautiful description of the relationship we have with God – our God is the shepherd, and we are his sheep.

Further Study & Discussion

- Which verse or phrase stands out for you? Share that with others.

- In the midst of the shutdown, perhaps v.4 is most meaningful. How does v.4 speak to you today?

- For David who knew shepherding, God was his Shepherd. From your own experience, who is God to you?

Matthew 27

If Matthew 26 was a dark day in Jesus' earthly life, then this day was the darkest of days. Back and forth between Jewish leaders and Roman governor, Jesus is beaten and nailed to the cross.

Further Study & Discussion

- Matthew lets us know that the blame for Jesus' death lies squarely at the feet of the Jewish leaders who tempted Judas with money, threatened Pontius Pilate with rioting, and forced the crowd to turn on Jesus. Is the Gospel open for them as well?

- Pontius Pilate didn't want to convict Jesus but was pressured to do so. Talk about a time when peer pressure got the best of you.

- V.50-51 notes that upon Jesus' death, the temple curtain was torn into two. Do you know the purpose of the temple curtain and why this was so significant? Talk about it.

Bethany 2020