

5. What might you hear in God's silence (share a personal experience if one comes to mind)?

6. How does knowing the story of God in the Bible help you deal with desperate times or with God when he is silent?

7. Looking back over this week's sermon and study, what one thing is most important for you to remember and apply?

### **Missional Application**

God calls us to embrace suffering willingly as we follow in the footsteps of our Savior, whose mission was to seek and save the lost.

### **Christ Connection**

In the garden of Eden, Adam failed to resist the serpent and chose instead to follow his way over God's. In the garden of Gethsemane, Jesus, the second Adam, submitted fully to his Father's purpose and plan. He willingly submitted to death upon the cross. Jesus demonstrated his identity as the Son of God through both his words and actions as he was betrayed, arrested, and put on trial.

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## SERMON APPLICATION GUIDE

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### **Jesus the Savior (Part 1)**

"What to Do When God is Silent and You are Desperate"

Matthew 26:36-56

#### **What to Do When God is Silent and You are Desperate**

1. Hearing from God in a crisis takes more time if you weren't listening to God before the crisis.

Prepare before the crisis:

- Devote yourself to the discipline and rituals of prayer.

Colossians 4: <sup>2</sup> Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.

Luke 22: <sup>39</sup> Jesus went out AS USUAL to the Mount of Olives, and his disciples followed him.

John 18: <sup>1</sup> When he had finished praying, Jesus left with his disciples and crossed the Kidron Valley. On the other side there was a garden, and he and his disciples went into it. <sup>2</sup> Now Judas, who betrayed him, knew the place, because Jesus had often met there with his disciples.

- Focus on the relationship, not the ritual.

Just because you weren't listening to God before the crisis, God's not going to turn you away in the crisis.

2. God speaks even when he is silent.

3. Jesus endured God's silence so you can experience God's presence.

Sin is an act of rebellion and a declaration of independence from God.

"Sin isn't just trampling on the laws of God; sin is trampling on the heart of God." (Tim Keller)

"I would not hazard to estimate the number of times I have been asked, 'How does Christianity address the problem of suffering?' ...The Christian answer to suffering [is] Christ's suffering [and] Christ's resurrection.... God knows pain within himself; God knows joy within himself. He knows the whole story as one, including how it all turns out, which is glorious indeed." (Jerry Stetzer)

### **Personal Reflection & Small Group Questions**

Please complete this study on your own, then bring it to your small group for discussion.

1. Looking back over your notes from this week's sermon, what particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

2. Read Matthew 26:36-56. Why do you think Jesus took three disciples farther than the others on his way to pray in the garden?

3. What do you learn about the importance of prayer from this passage?

4. Read Luke 22:39 and John 18:1-2. What rituals of prayer help you pray?

### **Family Discussion Questions**

1. Jesus asked the disciples to pray so they would not give in to temptation. How does prayer help us fight temptation?
2. Why did Jesus pray the same prayer three times?
3. What are the ways God speaks, even when he is silent?