



strengthened him. He prayed more fervently, and he was in such agony of spirit that his sweat fell to the ground like great drops of blood.

**Psalm 13:1-2 (NLT)** O Lord, how long will you forget me? Forever? How long will you look the other way? How long must I struggle with anguish in my soul, with sorrow in my heart every day?

**5-6 (NLT)** But I trust in your unfailing love. I will rejoice because you have rescued me. I will sing to the Lord because he is good to me.

### ***Warm Up:***

In his message, Pastor Tom touched on some times he has taken his questions to God. Just for fun if you could ask God any question, what would you ask him and why?

### ***Discussion:***

1) In the beginning of his message, Pastor Tom described how he would walk to the very back of his parents property, sit on a huge rock, and look over a valley of Pennsylvania farmland and talk to God. Is there a special place you go to talk to God or to be alone with Him? A favorite place? A secret place? Describe it to your group. What is your favorite part about it?

2) Read Matthew 27:45-46 and Psalm 22:1-2.

Has there been a time in your life when you prayed this prayer? How might these passages provide a sense of comfort to someone?

3) In his message, Pastor Tom shared how on the cross Jesus experienced separation from God as he carried the sin of the world.

What are some times when you have experienced separation from God? What does it do to you to know that Jesus, too, experienced separation from God?

4) Read Luke 22:39-44.

Summarize what is happening in this passage? Look at the verses surrounding this passage. What was weighing on Jesus? How might understanding this passage impact the way you view suffering or challenges in your own life?

5) Excerpt from Pastor Tom:

*God didn't come as we are, just to teach us about forgiveness and unconditional love. No, God came in the flesh, to suffer for us, but also to suffer with us.*

What does it mean to suffer for someone? What might it look like suffer with someone? How does/did God fully embody both of those? How has he suffered for you and with you specifically?

6) Pastor Tom says the good news is that *when it comes to God, silence is never forever and death is never the last word.*

What do you think Pastor Tom meant by this statement? How can we see this truth in Jesus' life? How have you experienced this truth in your own life?

7) Read the verses from Psalm 22 above.

Can you relate to any of these words? If so, share about some times when you have felt like the Psalmist. What might you say to someone who is currently feeling like the Psalmist? What might it look like for someone to cling to God while feeling forsaken?

***Next Steps:***

Take some time this week to think back on the times in your life you have felt God was the most silent. How did God's silence ultimately bring new life?

If you are in a season of silence, take some time this week to evaluate what God may be doing right now.

What things need to die so He can bring new life? What things are you praying for that you may not need right now?

Let this be your prayer: Psalm 13:1-2, 5-6 (NLT).

O Lord, how long will you forget me? Forever? How long will you look the other way? How long must I struggle with anguish in my soul, with sorrow in my heart every day? **But I trust in your unfailing love. I will rejoice because you have rescued me. I will sing to the Lord because he is good to me.**