

NOTHING IS WASTED

WEEKLY STUDY

WEEK THREE

Our current message series is called Nothing is Wasted. We are seeing how God has established patterns of using our trials and tears to bring about God's purposes. In the story of Daniel in the lion's den, we see a faithful man whose dedication to God got him placed into a place that no one escapes alive. That same faithfulness was seen by God who rescued him. Nothing in the story is wasted. If you are studying with your Providence Small Group, you can share from daily readings as well as the additional questions at the bottom of this guide. If you would like to get connected to a Providence Small Group go to www.prov.church/signup and click on Small Groups.

Find a time each day to read the passage of scripture. Follow the daily prayer prompt and then pray this prayer together:

God who leads with a cloud by day and flames at night, guide us in our times of wilderness wandering. Take our hurt and pain and re-story our lives. Please make beauty out of the ashes we may be walking through right now. Amen.

DAILY STUDY

MONDAY: DANIEL 6.21-22

Daniel answered, "May the king live forever! ²² My God sent his angel, and he shut the mouths of the lions. They have not hurt me, because I was found innocent in his sight. Nor have I ever done any wrong before you, Your Majesty."

- Daniel answers the king who is hoping to find him alive. An angel of God shut the mouths of the lions who might have taken his life. Have you ever faced a situation that seemed like certain doom and yet here you are today? Have you seen God intervene to rescue you? Everyone who follows Jesus has at least one world-changing example of God entering into their mess of sin and brokenness and offering rescue!
- *Pray a prayer of gratitude for the ultimate rescue we have through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.*

TUESDAY: MATTHEW 28.1-6

After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb.

² There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. ³ His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. ⁴ The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men.

⁵ The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. ⁶ He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay.

- Similar to Daniel's story, Jesus was placed, lifeless, in a tomb and an angel of God came to announce that a new opportunity for life had come. Imagine that you are looking through the eyes of Mary on that morning. Are you suspicious, hopeful, relieved, worried? They had heard that these things were going to happen, yet to see salvation with your own eyes must have too much for their hearts to hold. It's like knowing the end of the story but still feeling the wildness of its truth.
- *Pray for gratitude that includes all of the emotions of the empty tomb.*

WEDNESDAY: JEREMIAH 29.11

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

- God has a promise and a purpose for us. These words recorded by the prophet Jeremiah came to a people in captivity. Do you know what it feels like to be in a land other than your home? Have you ever lost hope of returning to the life that you were meant to live?
- *Pray for increasing confidence in God's plan for your future.*

THURSDAY: JOHN 8.36

⁶ *So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.*

- We can be stubborn people. We are often sure that we can break free from whatever is holding us captive all by our own strength. But true freedom comes from Jesus Christ. He sets us free! What is holding you captive today? What efforts have you made to break free?
- *Pray for daily acceptance of the freedom we are given through the gift of the Son of God.*

FRIDAY: MATTHEW 5.10-14

Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹ *"Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.*

¹³ *"You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.*

¹⁴ *"You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden.*

- Faithfulness to God doesn't prevent us from trouble. Sometimes it gets us in trouble. The world notices when someone is not going along with the status quo. What about following Jesus puts

you at odds with the culture around you? What keeps you from losing your saltiness or hiding your light?

- *Pray to be salt and light even when others insult your choice to follow Jesus.*

SATURDAY: ISAIAH 61.1

*The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me,
because the LORD has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.*

*He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim freedom for the captives
and release from darkness for the prisoners,*

- Your rescue is at the heart of Jesus' mission. Can you imagine choosing to stay in prison, to stay in darkness when a path for escape was made possible and freely available? What were the costs for Jesus as he rescued us? What are the costs for following him out of the darkness?
 - *Pray for opportunities to preach good news to the poor and point others to freedom in Christ.*
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SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

- Pastor Jacob mentioned that, in Daniel's day, true religion was punishable by death. It was a threat to the status quo. How can the promise and purpose that God had for you before you were born inform the way you live in the world today?
- There are several parallels between the story of Daniel and the story of Jesus. How many can you remember? What is the significance of these similarities? Are there upper rooms, large stones, and angels in your life?