<u>Pre-Sermon Devotional</u> <u>Are You Suffering?</u>

This week's devotion is going to focus on how God is with us during our times of suffering.

Monday

Pray:

Read: <u>1 Peter 4:12-19</u>

Think about the following:

- 1) Why do you think suffering exists?
- 2) Why might Christians be surprised by their suffering?
- 3) Why does Peter tell us to rejoice when we suffer?

Prayer: Heavenly Father, because of sin everyone suffers. Help us to suffer for the sake of the Gospel so that others may see your glory in us. In Jesus name, amen.

Tuesday

Pray:

Read: <u>1 Peter 5:6-11</u>

Think about the following:

- 1) Why does Peter encourage us to humble ourselves?
- 2) Why does Satan prowl like a roaring lion?
- 3) What comfort does it give us to know that we are not alone in our suffering? (vs. 9)

Prayer: Heavenly Father, protect us from Satan by helping us to remain close to you and our fellow Christians. Give us strength to encourage each other as we serve you. In Jesus name, amen.

Wednesday

Pray:

Read: 1 Peter 1:17-21

Think about the following:

- 1) How were we ransomed?
- 2) What were we ransomed from

Prayer: Heavenly Father, you redeemed us through Jesus death on the cross. Help us to never take this precious gift for granted.

Help us also to share this precious gift with those who do not know you. In Jesus name, amen.

Thursday

Pray:

Read: Philippians 3:8-11
Think about the following:

- 1) Why does Paul consider everything as a loss?
- 2) Where does our suffering fit into this?
- 3) What hope do we have?

Prayer: Heavenly Father, we have eternal life in you; everything else pales in comparison. During our times of struggle help us to focus on you and the eternal reward that you will give to us. In Jesus name, amen.

<u>Friday</u>

Pray:

Read: John 16:32-33

Think about the following:

- 1) What "hour" is Jesus talking about?
- 2) According to Jesus, where do we find peace?
- 3) What has Jesus overcome?

Prayer: Heavenly Father, Jesus has overcome sin, death and the devil for our sake. Help us to find peace in this promise. Also help us to share this peace with those around us who don't know you. In Jesus name, amen.

Saturday

Pray:

Read: Matthew 28:19-20
Think about the following:

- 1) What command does Jesus give us?
- 2) What promise does he make?

Pray: Heavenly Father, help us to go and make disciples. Give us the strength to serve you as we remember the promise you have made that you will always be with us; especially during our times of suffering. In Jesus name, amen.