

Our theme for this week in the Dark Wood is “The Gift of Emptiness.” Each day take the scripture passage and ask the questions below. Then take a moment to think about the question for the day. Use quiet prayer time or even use your journal to connect with the questions.

- What does it say about God?
- What does it say about Human beings?
- What does it say about Creation?
- What does it say about the relationship between creation, God, and humanity?

Monday March 13th - *Read Psalm 23:1-6.* Is there a better symbol to address emptiness or depression than the “valley of the shadow of death?” Answer the theological questions and ask yourself how this provides the balance for naming our emptiness while offering hope.

Tuesday March 14th - *Read 2 Timothy 4:1-5.* There are many groups in our world today that claim they have cornered the market on truth. You see it in politics and you see it in the governance of the Church. What traits can you find from Jesus that are to help us determine what is real? When we are in a season of emptiness, are we more or less likely to give in to easy answers and un-substantiated claims?

Wednesday March 15th - *Read Genesis 2:1-25.* How does the imagery of the Creation help us to live in our moments of emptiness? Is there something comforting to hear again the purpose of every living thing, the sacredness of everything God has touched?

Thursday March 16th - *Read Jeremiah 29:11.* This is perhaps the most encouraging piece of scripture in the entire Bible. Memorize it. Write it on your heart for the times when you feel the heaviest burden of emptiness.

Friday March 17th – *Read Isaiah 53:4-6.* As we consider our own emptiness, how does this passage put into perspective our connection to Christ? Can this be a comfort to us?

Saturday March 18th - *Read Romans 10:1-21.* If there is urgency to our call to share God’s love through Jesus Christ, is there then newfound energy to walk with emptiness as a testimony to the assurance of hope (faith)?

Look at the prayer list. Who can you pray for? Who needs a little extra help in an area where you can make a difference?

Healing Strength: Rex Townsend, Craig & Tom (friends of Pastor Matthew), Brady Riley, Stan Enschede, Chris Osborn (Ken and Sandy Grubb’s daughter), Janet Coons (Donna McCullough’s daughter)

Homebound Members: Mary Hicks, Mary Schmidt, Jeanne Carman, Ginny Compton, Sylvia Henricks, Clara Ford, Caroline Loos

Military Personnel: Adam Walters, Joseph Roberts, Lucas Lamkin, Adam Clark

OTHER PRAYER REQUESTS & REFLECTIONS