

WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY

THE STRUGGLE CONTINUES

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
204 ODESSA AVENUE
PITTSBURG, CA 94565**

Bible Study

**THE STRUGGLE CONTINUES
“Safeguarding Our Struggle”**

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May 1, 2019**

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REVIEW

Surviving the Struggle

THE IMPACT OF OUR TESTIMONY
(Rev. 12:10-11)

- We are covered by the blood of the lamb
- The content of our testimony – The Word of God!
- Our commitment is evidence through our personal sacrifice!

RESULTS

TAKE-A-WAYS

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

GOALS

TODAY'S LESSON
"Safeguarding Our Struggles"

- Students will accept God's freedom during the struggle
- Student will embrace specific methods of coping with imperfect-ness
- Students will intentionally seek opportunities to use their struggles as a means to evangelize

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OBJECTIVES

The discussion of this lesson is to explore symptoms to look for in achieving the goals that affect evangelism.

The question is: What symptoms are present that sparks thoughts about our freedom, our imperfection, and our opportunities?

I. Forgiving Ourselves

Forgiveness makes more sense when, instead of focusing on the wrong done to you, you think about God's character and the manner in which He forgave you.

Jesus answered, *"I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times. Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times. (Matthew 18:22)*

II. Symptoms to Look for in the Struggle; opportunities that produces:

- An abundance of forgiveness
- An absence of mercy
- An arousal of anger
- An absence of justice

III. The Purpose of Forgiveness is to achieve "Freedom." How?

A. Suggested Approach:

- Talk to God
- Listen to God
- Lean unto God

B. Develop Your Personal Prayer

"Example"

God, I give my feelings of guilt, my "if onlys," to You. I lay them at Your feet because they are too heavy a burden to carry. It was my loved one's time to go. Please comfort me in my pain.

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III. The Purpose of Forgiveness is to achieve “Freedom.” How? (Cont’d.)

C. Listen to God

¹⁴For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. ¹⁵But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins. (Matthew 6:14-15)

D. Lean Upon God

⁵Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding;
⁶in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight
(Proverbs 3:5-6)

IV. Seeking Opportunities for Evangelism In the Struggle

- Accept your **worth** – Ephesians 2:10
- Restructure your **worship** – John 4:24
- Position yourself to His **will** – Romans 12:1-2

**SEEKING OPPORTUNITIES
FOR EVANGELISM IN THE STRUGGLE**

FROM PRODUCT TO PRACTICE. Identify using God’s grace, mercy, and forgiveness toward others!

How? _____, _____, _____

When? _____, _____, _____

Where? _____, _____, _____

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

- The Holy Bible, NIV
- The Struggle is Real, Nicole Unice
- Grief Share, Church Initiative

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

Revelations 12:10-11 (NIV)

¹⁰Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say: “Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Messiah. For the accuser of our brothers and sisters, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down. ¹¹They triumphed over him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death.

Ephesians 2:10 (NIV)

¹⁰For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

John 4:24 (NIV)

²⁴God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.”

Romans 12:1-2 (NIV)

A Living Sacrifice

12 Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. ² Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.