

FAITH FOR EXILES

Lent 2020
Week 6



Salisbury
Uniting Church



WEEK 6 - 5 APR - 12 APR

Daily Bible Readings

5/04 - Luke 19:28-40

6/04 - Luke 19:41-48

7/04 - Luke 20:19-26

8/04 - Luke 22:7-13

9/04 - Luke 22:14-23

10/04 - Luke 23:26-49

11/04 - Luke 23:50-56

12/04 - Luke 24:1-12



WEEK 6 - 5 APR - 12 APR

Spiritual Practice - Praying for Success
of Competitors
(From the Good and Beautiful Life)

One of the most counter-cultural things a Christian can do is pray for a competitor or an enemy. To come before God and pray for their wellbeing, for their health, for their prosperity. It might be a good practice to think of someone who is your enemy-someone who you know is actively pursuing your demise. Many of us will be hard-pressed to come up with an authentic enemy.

So I would like you to scale it down a little and take a smaller step in obeying Jesus commands. I want you to pray for the success of a competitor. A competitor is anyone you are measured against, anyone whose success in some way diminishes yours.



WEEK 6 - 5 APR - 12 APR

Spiritual Practice - Praying for Success
of Competitors
(From the Good and Beautiful Life)

It might be a business competitor or someone you compete against in school or in sports. Perhaps it is a parent whose child competes with your child in athletics or the fine arts. If you are a pastor, you might want to pray for the success of nearby churches.

Ask God to reveal these people or institutions to you.

Some have said to me, "To be honest, I really do not have any competitors." If that is the case, think of someone who causes difficulty in your life. My wife calls these people "irregular persons"- people who get under our skin or do things that causes us problems.



WEEK 6 - 5 APR - 12 APR

Spiritual Practice - Praying for Success
of Competitors
(From the Good and Beautiful Life)

Choose a competitor or difficult person.
Pray for guidance from the Holy Spirit
about who you should pray for.

It usually doesn't take long to figure out
which persons or institutions are our
competitors, but once we begin praying
for them we notice an inner tension;
namely, we don't really want them to
succeed. At first we merely say it and
don't necessarily feel it. That is OK. Be at
peace about this. This is a slow process.
As we do it over time we will begin to
notice our feelings change. Whenever I
engage in this exercise something
strange happens. I won't tell you what
that is.

WEEK 6 - 5 APR - 12 APR

Spiritual Practice - Praying for Success
of Competitors
(From the Good and Beautiful Life)

You will soon discover it for yourself.
And when you do, you'll appreciate the
wisdom of Jesus and his command to
pray for your enemies.

In terms of actual practice, how exactly
do we do this? The following are a few
tips that I have found helpful.

- Spend a few minutes each day praying
for your competitor, asking God to bless
him or her and the work he or she does.
- Hold that person or institution up
before God, and pray for as many good
things to happen as you can think of.
- Do this once a day for four or five days
this week. See if your heart begins to
change toward this person.



WEEK 6 - 5 APR - 12 APR

Bible Study

Connect (10-15 minutes)

- How did God show up in your life this week?
- What are you thankful for?
- What is causing stress in your life right now?
- How did you find the spiritual practice of play?

Discover (10-15 minutes)

- Someone read Matthew 5:1-12 out loud.
- What does the passage say? (Repeat it in your own words.)
- What does the passage mean? (What does it tell us about God? About people?)
- (If this is God speaking...) What will you do about it?



WEEK 6 - 5 APR - 12 APR

Bible Study

Multiply (10 minutes)

- How can we help one another in our group?
- Who else (outside of our group) can we show kindness to?
- Who can we tell and how can we tell what we're learning?

