



A Good Word Week 1 - STAND

Spiritual Formation & Discussion Guide

We hope you'll use this guide to take the teaching from Sunday's service and reflect on it with a few friends or a group. If you have questions or want to talk more about how to take your next spiritual step, contact us at info@wschurch.org.

Scripture:

1 Corinthians 15:55-58

55 *"Death is swallowed up in victory."*

"O death, where is your victory?

O death, where is your sting?"

56 *The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law.*

57 *But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

58 *Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.*

Reflection Questions:

- Have you ever had that person in your life willing to tell you the 'hard truth', or someone who follows the 'spinach in the teeth principle'?
- What would you say was the most impactful moment of today's worship service? Was it a line from one of the songs, a moment reflecting upon communion, or perhaps a specific point or scripture from today's message? (All of the message's main points and scriptures are listed below for reference.)
- Jake made an excellent point in his message today: one of the main reasons we gather for church is to marvel at the truth in the passage above (1 Cor. 15:55-58). When was the last time you simply marveled at the truth of this passage?
- Are there any specific hurdles or obstacles that keep you from standing firm in your faith? Why do you think those things have that specific effect on you?

- What makes it so hard to 'disagree better' with another person? Why do you think we aren't naturally inclined to this? Do you agree that this is more ideal than not disagreeing at all?
- Are you someone who thrives in 'changing' environments, or someone who thrives on consistency? How does that affect your experience with a changing culture and a truth from Scripture that remains constant?
- Has there ever been a time in your life when you felt you didn't have the strength to 'stand' on your own strength? If you had a relationship with Jesus, how did that faith support you at that time? If you didn't know Jesus, what unique challenges did you face?
- Have you taken a stand for something, that if you're being honest, wasn't founded in your faith in Jesus? A particular preference, cultural ideal, etc.? What were some challenges you faced trying to take that particular 'stand'?
- Have you had a personal experience where you had to 'stand' for your faith in Jesus? What were some challenges you faced trying to take that particular 'stand'?
- What are some things we can seek out that can help us find the strength and courage needed to remain steadfast in our faith in Jesus?

Need some additional resources or tools to help you on your spiritual journey?

We recommend our resource "How to Pray and Read the Bible" which can be picked up at our Next Steps area, or by visiting www.wschurch.org/content/pdf/How2PrayBible_Digial.pdf, you can also visit www.wschurch.org/resources to see additional tools and resources as well.

Message Main Points & Scripture:

- **1 Corinthians 15:56-58 (NLT)** - The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. 57 But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. 58 Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.
- If we want to stand forever with God, then it starts with standing firm today.
- **1 Corinthians 1:4-23 (NLT)** - 4 I always thank my God for you and for the gracious gifts he has given you, now that you belong to Christ Jesus. 5 Through him, God has enriched your church in every way –with all of your eloquent words and all of your knowledge. 6 This confirms that what I told you about Christ is true. 7 Now you have every spiritual gift you need as you eagerly wait for the return of our Lord Jesus Christ. 8 He will keep you strong to the end so that you will be free from all blame on the day when our Lord Jesus Christ returns. 9 God will do this, for he is faithful to do what he says, and he has invited you into partnership with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.....18 The message of the cross is foolish to those who are headed for destruction! But we who are being saved know it is the very power of God. 19 As the Scriptures say, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise and discard the intelligence of the intelligent." 20 So where does this leave the philosophers, the scholars, and the world's brilliant debaters? God has made the wisdom of this world look foolish. 21 Since God in his wisdom saw to it that the world would never know him through human wisdom, he has used our foolish preaching to save those who believe. 22 It is foolish to the Jews, who ask for

signs from heaven. And it is foolish to the Greeks, who seek human wisdom. 23 So when we preach that Christ was crucified, the Jews are offended and the Gentiles say it's all nonsense.

- Stand strong in times of adversity.
- **Matthew 9:1-8 (NLT)** - Jesus climbed into a boat and went back across the lake to his own town. 2 Some people brought to him a paralyzed man on a mat. Seeing their faith, Jesus said to the paralyzed man, "Be encouraged, my child! Your sins are forgiven." 3 But some of the teachers of religious law said to themselves, "That's blasphemy! Does he think he's God?" 4 Jesus knew what they were thinking, so he asked them, "Why do you have such evil thoughts in your hearts? 5 Is it easier to say 'Your sins are forgiven,' or 'Stand up and walk'? 6 So I will prove to you that the Son of Man has the authority on earth to forgive sins." Then Jesus turned to the paralyzed man and said, "Stand up, pick up your mat, and go home!" 7 And the man jumped up and went home! 8 Fear swept through the crowd as they saw this happen. And they praised God for giving humans such authority.
- Stand together in times of disunity.
- **1 Corinthians 11:17-18 (NLT)** - But in the following instructions, I cannot praise you. For it sounds as if more harm than good is done when you meet together. 18 First, I hear that there are divisions among you when you meet as a church, and to some extent I believe it.
- **1 Corinthians 12:12-13 (NLT)** - 12 The human body has many parts, but the many parts make up one whole body. So it is with the body of Christ. 13 Some of us are Jews, some are Gentiles, some are slaves, and some are free. But we have all been baptized into one body by one Spirit, and we all share the same Spirit.
- "People think that society will get better when we disagree less, but society will get better when we disagree better."
- **Matthew 5:14-16 (NLT)** - "You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. 15 No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. 16 In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.
- Stand up for the truth.
- **1 Corinthians 15:1-5 (NLT)** - 1 Let me now remind you, dear brothers and sisters, of the Good News I preached to you before. You welcomed it then, and you still stand firm in it. 2 It is this Good News that saves you if you continue to believe the message I told you—unless, of course, you believed something that was never true in the first place. 3 I passed on to you what was most important and what had also been passed on to me. Christ died for our sins, just as the Scriptures said. 4 He was buried, and he was raised from the dead on the third day, just as the Scriptures said. 5 He was seen by Peter and then by the Twelve.
- **1 Corinthians 15:56-58 (NLT)** - 56 For sin is the sting that results in death, and the law gives sin its power. 57 But thank God! He gives us victory over sin and death through our Lord Jesus Christ. 58 So, my dear brothers and sisters, be strong and immovable. Always work enthusiastically for the Lord, for you know that nothing you do for the Lord is ever useless.
- In an environment that is always changing, we can find our footing by standing firm in the word of God.
- **Ephesians 4:14 (NLT)** - "Then we will no longer be immature like children. We won't be tossed and blown about by every wind of new teaching. We will not be influenced when people try to trick us with lies so clever they sound like the truth."
- We want to stand forever with God, so it starts with standing firm today.
- **Revelation 6:12-17 (ESV)** - 12 When he opened the sixth seal, I looked, and behold, there was a great earthquake, and the sun became black as sackcloth, the full moon became like blood, 13 and

the stars of the sky fell to the earth as the fig tree sheds its winter fruit when shaken by a gale. 14 The sky vanished like a scroll that is being rolled up, and every mountain and island was removed from its place. 15 Then the kings of the earth and the great ones and the generals and the rich and the powerful, and everyone, slave and free, hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains, 16 calling to the mountains and rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who is seated on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb, 17 for the great day of their wrath has come, and who can stand?"

- **Revelation 7:9-14 (ESV)** - 9 After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, 10 and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" 11 And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, 12 saying, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen." 13 Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, clothed in white robes, and from where have they come?" 14 I said to him, "Sir, you know." And he said to me, "These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb."
- If we want to stand forever with God, then it starts with standing firm today.