

If Suicide's the Answer ... What's the Question?

This week, Kate Spade was buried here in Kansas City after tragically ending her life. Her death coincided with the CDC's warning of a recent uptick in the national suicide rate ... 30 percent nationally, and 36 percent here in Missouri. Today there's hardly anyone who hasn't been personally touched by someone who took their own life. It's so common today, one might wonder how suicide has become "the answer" for so many of life's problems.

Judges 16:28–30

1. We live in a culture where the fear of _____ has become more fearsome than the fear of _____.
2. The rise in suicide rates correspond with the _____ _____.
3. Being _____ in the _____ is one of the most potent suicide prevention tools.

My Count Me In! Commitments

- I'll be here next Sunday
- I'll invite a friend

Additional Notes

Digging Deeper, Going Further

Monday

Read: Ezekiel 46

1. What were the “normal” days set aside for the people to worship?
2. Why do you think the people were to come in and out of opposite gates during the three special holidays (9) of the year?

Reflect: Here there are specific instructions about worship – what to do and how often to do it. How important is worship attendance and participation to you?

Tuesday

Read: Ezekiel 47

1. How would the picture of the Promised Land bring hope to those who were in Babylon? (6–12)
2. Why do you think foreigners were to be treated as fellow Israelites? (22–23)

Reflect: If this chapter pictures a kingdom of the future, how would you describe it to someone who was imprisoned?

Wednesday

Read: Ezekiel 48

1. Do some research ... in verse 8, how big in miles or acres was the Lord’s special portion of the land?
2. How many gates to the city were there to be?

Reflect: What do you think it would be like to live in a city where you knew “The Lord is There”?

Thursday

Read: 1 Corinthians 1

1. Which spiritual gifts were missing from the Corinthian church?
2. Why do you think Paul addresses the divisions of the church members so early in the letter?

Reflect: When church members are not unified in purpose and direction, what is the affect on the church?

Friday

Read: 1 Corinthians 2

1. Paul said his preaching didn’t come with eloquent words. How was the message made known to the Corinthians? (4–5)
2. In what verse/s does Paul show that God knows even our own thoughts?

Reflect: What does it take to access the deeper wisdom teachings from God?

Saturday: *Who will you invite to worship with you tomorrow?*