

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

## *The Desperation of Disillusionment*

*Backed into a corner. No end to the tunnel, let alone no light. Standing on the edge of world with no hope. Whether you get there because of bad decisions you've made, or because life has got in the way of your hopes and dreams, despair for some is too near to ignore. The desperation of despair is one of the most common experiences people have who are considering a life-ending option. This week's conversation in the If Suicide's the Answer, What's the Question? series will explore the complexities of hopelessness and what you can do to bring light to people's dark places.*

1 Samuel 31:1-6

1. \_\_\_\_\_ is the universal emotional experience of those contemplating suicide.
2. King Saul entertained three unholy perceptions: that he was \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_.
3. God does not \_\_\_\_\_ as we \_\_\_\_\_.
4. **You** are the \_\_\_\_\_ that your \_\_\_\_\_.

### ***My Count Me In! Commitments***

- I'll be here next Sunday
- I'll invite a friend
- I'll write a paragraph describing how I believe God sees me
- I'll share my paragraph with a close friend
- I will articulate "the hope that I have" with someone this week

### **Additional Notes**

# Digging Deeper, Going Further

## Monday

**Read:** 1 Corinthians 16

1. How much was each person to set aside for the special offering to Jerusalem?
2. In verse 9, Paul mentions that “many oppose me.” This was true both of the Jews, but also those who were in the church. Why do you think they were opposing him?

**Reflect:** What opposition does the church face today?

## Tuesday

**Read:** 2 Corinthians 1

1. According to verses 3–4, why does God offer his comfort to us?
2. What did Paul do when he experienced “great pressure, far beyond our ability to endure”? (v 8)

**Reflect:** What do you do to keep yourself standing firm in Christ? (v 21)

## Wednesday

**Read:** 2 Corinthians 2

1. Paul’s first letter (1 Corinthians) was painful in a number of the places. According to the 2 Corinthians 2, why was he so harsh?
2. What punishment do you think the church leveled against the sinful man? (v 5–11)

**Reflect:** How would you describe the “pleasing aroma of Christ”? How are you a pleasing aroma to God?

## Thursday

**Read:** 2 Corinthians 3

1. On what was the old covenant written? The new covenant?
2. What does it take to remove the veil that covers our hearts?

**Reflect:** What are you going to do today as a “minister of the new covenant”? (v 1)

## Friday

**Read:** 2 Corinthians 4

1. Who has blinded the minds and hearts of those who do not believe in Jesus Christ?
2. What was Paul willing to sacrifice for the sake of sharing the gospel? (v 7–12)

**Reflect:** What sacrifices are you making to ensure that unbelievers and the unchurch have the best opportunity to hear the good news of Jesus Christ?

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