

The background of the entire page is a dark, atmospheric photograph of a cavernous interior. The walls are made of rough, dark stone. In the center, a small, warm light source, possibly a candle or a small fire, illuminates a stone structure that resembles a tomb or a simple altar. The light creates a strong contrast with the surrounding darkness, highlighting the textures of the stone and the shape of the structure. The overall mood is somber and contemplative.

THE
SILENCE OF
BURIED *Hope*

When hope is buried...
and heaven is silent...
how do we continue to trust?

Three-Day Preparation Guide
toward Good Friday Evening Service

How to Use This 3-Day Preparation Guide

This three-day preparation guide is not meant to trace the events of Jesus' journey through the Passion Week toward the Cross. Rather, it is an invitation to enter into the silence and stillness that frames Good Friday, reflecting on the weight of hope that feels buried along with our crucified Lord and Saviour, Jesus. You may choose any three days leading up to Good Friday to walk through this guide, setting aside a few quiet moments each day.

Begin by slowly reading the Scripture passages for the day. Let the words settle deeply in your heart, listening for how they speak into the spaces of uncertainty, waiting, and silence in your own life. Reflect on the short devotional and the questions that follow, not as a checklist, but as gentle prompts to bring your thoughts and emotions before God.

You may wish to end each day with a simple prayer, placing your fears, longings, and hidden hopes into God's care. As we move together through these three days, may the Spirit lead us into the stillness of the tomb, helping us experience the profound mystery of hope that endures even when all seems silent and buried.

Day 1: When the Cross Shattered Our Expectations

Scripture Reading

Mark 15:33-39; Luke 24:17-21

Devotional

The cross unsettles our expectations of how God should work. The disciples watched Jesus Christ die and later spoke the quiet words of disappointment: “We had hoped.” In the spiritual life, such moments are not failures of faith but invitations to deeper trust. God often forms us in places where our certainty gives way to surrender. When our hopes collapse, we are gently led to release our assumptions and learn again to trust the God whose purposes reach beyond what we can see.

In these moments, faith is not the absence of confusion but the presence of courage to remain open to God’s unfolding work. The cross reminds us that God’s ways are often hidden within what appears to be loss. What feels like an ending, but in God’s hands, may be the beginning of something deeper than we could have imagined.

Reflection Questions

1. What hopes or expectations might the disciples have felt collapse when Jesus died?
2. Have you experienced moments when God did not act the way you hoped He would?
3. Where might God be inviting you to release your expectations and trust Him more deeply?

Day 2: When Heaven Is Silent

Scripture Reading

Psalm 22:1-5; Psalm 13:1-2

Devotional

The psalms teach us that the language of faith includes lament. “My God, why have you forsaken me?” and “How long, Lord?” are prayers spoken in the raw honesty of longing and confusion. Even Jesus Christ prayed these words from the cross. In seasons when God seems silent, our formation does not come through easy answers but through faithful presence. We learn to remain before God with honesty, bringing our questions and pain into prayer. In this way, the silence itself becomes a place where our trust is quietly deepened.

Lament keeps the relationship alive. Rather than turning away from God, we continue to turn toward Him, trusting that the One who hears our cries is nearer than we may realize. In these prayers, our hearts are slowly shaped to trust God even when clarity has not yet come.

Reflection Questions

1. What does it mean to you that Jesus prayed these words from the cross?
2. When have you experienced a season where God felt silent?
3. What honest prayer might you bring to God today without trying to resolve it?

Day 3: Waiting in the Dark

Scripture Reading

Lamentations 3:25-29; Romans 8:24-25

Devotional

After Jesus was laid in the tomb by Joseph of Arimathea, the disciples entered a space of waiting. They could not yet see what God was doing. Yet Scripture teaches that hope often grows in hidden places. Waiting becomes a quiet school of trust where God shapes patience, humility, and perseverance within us. Much of our spiritual formation takes place here, in the unresolved spaces where we continue to seek God and hold on to hope, even when the outcome remains unseen.

Though the darkness feels long, waiting is never empty. In ways unseen, God continues His quiet work, preparing new life where we may only perceive silence. As we learn to wait with God, our hearts are gradually formed to trust that His redemption is always unfolding, even in the stillness.

Reflection Questions

1. What situations in your life currently require patience and waiting?
2. What makes waiting on God difficult?
3. What might it look like to trust God quietly in this season?

