

**“When Bad Things Happen”  
(September 17-23, 2017)**

**"The Sound Of Silence"  
(originally by Simon & Garfunkel)**

**Hello, darkness, my old friend.  
I've come to talk with you again  
Because a vision softly creeping,  
Left its seeds while I was sleeping.**

**And the vision that was planted in my brain  
Still remains  
Within the sound of silence.**

**In restless dreams I walked alone.  
Narrow streets of cobblestone  
'Neath the halo of a street lamp.  
I turned my collar to the cold and damp**

**When my eyes were stabbed by the flash of a neon light  
That split the night  
And touched the sound of silence.**

**And in the naked light I saw  
Ten thousand people, maybe more.  
People talking without speaking.  
People hearing without listening.**

**People writing songs that voices never share.  
And no one dare  
Disturb the sound of silence.**

**"Fools," said I, "You do not know:  
Silence, like a cancer, grows.  
Hear my words that I might teach you.  
Take my arms that I might reach you,"**

**But my words like silent raindrops fell  
And echoed in the wells of silence.**

**And the people bowed and prayed  
To the neon god they made.  
And the sign flashed out its warning  
In the words that it was forming.**

**And the sign said,  
"The words of the prophets are written on the subway walls  
And tenement halls.  
And whispered in the sound of silence."**

**Answer and discuss the following question with your group.**

1. What do you think the words of the song “Sounds of Silence” mean? Do you think the author was seeking a place of silence? Or was he afraid of silence and what might be revealed?

**Read the following excerpt aloud or watch message segment #1.**

An excerpt from the StoneBridge message, “When Bad Things Happen”.

We notice a couple of things about the leadership of Joseph that was required to save his family.

- He listened to God

Whom do you listen to in a crisis?

There will always be tons of voices to listen to when things are bad. If you live long enough, you realize that life throws you curve balls. Sometimes it is our fault – sometimes things happen that are beyond our control. In those moments, whom will you listen to?

Joseph listened to God.

**Refer to the following scriptures and answer/discuss the following questions.  
Matthew 2: 10-18**

2. How did Joseph listen to God? How do we know Joseph listened to God? How do you listen to God?
3. What keeps us from hearing God?
4. How do individuals and families tend to respond to crisis situations? Why do you think they respond the way they do?

**Read the following excerpt aloud or watch message segment #2.**

An excerpt from the StoneBridge message, “When Bad Things Happen”.

So those of you who wait...on the Lord have every reason to be confident. Yes – it will take time – and I know you would like the Lord to snap his fingers and fix things faster – but just wait – you don’t have to panic and you don’t have to be fearful – He has understanding that no one can fathom.

As a result of waiting on him, the God who upholds the stars also supports weary people.

**Refer to the following scriptures and answer/discuss the following questions.  
1 Kings 19:1-18, Isaiah 40:25-31**

5. Read 1 Kings 19:1-18. What does Elijah do when his life is threatened? How does God respond when Elijah flees? Do you think Elijah would have left the cave had God not intervened? Why do you think God intervened?
6. Read Isaiah 40:25-31. Have you ever grown weary of waiting on the Lord? Why do you think it is so hard to be patient? Why is “waiting” emphasized in verse 31? What does God promise to those who wait?

### **Reflection and Wrap-up**

7. What do you know about God’s character that helps you believe He will answer you and has your best interests at heart? How do the verses from Isaiah 40 give comfort?
8. What are some ways that you can wait on Lord? How can you try them this week?

### **Pray Together as a Group**

**Additional Study:** Mark 1:35, Acts 10:1-21, Genesis 3:8, Psalm 37:7, Psalm 46:10