



INTRODUCTION - Week 2

Though Jesus experienced what it feels like to be abandoned, the cross was not the end of the story. This week in worship you'll hear about a thriving partnership between Calvary and Lutheran World Relief in one of the poorest parts of the world — a place forgotten, even abandoned, by most: Bihar, India. You'll hear how abandonment is not the end of the story for our brothers and sisters in Bihar — just like it wasn't the end for Jesus on the cross. Why? Because God is using people like you and me to help write a new story!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. In our world there are whole groups of people throughout history who have been forgotten, marginalized or "abandoned." When you think of such groups, who are the people that come to mind?
2. The people of Bihar, India are mostly a "tribal" people. In the cast system that dictates much of Indian culture, they don't even have a place in Indian society. They truly are abandoned. Because of this, families in rural Bihar are unable to earn enough to grow food or support their families, one in every two children is malnourished and few know how to read or write, even sign their own names. Calvary's partnership with LWR seeks to create a *sustainable standard of life* for the people of Bihar. What contributes to a *sustainable standard of life*? What does a *sustainable standard of life* look like?
3. How does support that creates a "*sustainable standard of life*" look different from providing handouts or going on mission trips?
4. **Read Romans 8:31-39.** In this reading, Paul wrote to the Gentile (non-Jewish) Roman Christians to assure them that the expanse of God's kingdom included both Jews and Gentiles alike. It is Paul's call for all to share in a life grounded in the justice of God.
5. Can you name a time when you really needed to hear the words "nothing will ever separate you from the love of God in Christ Jesus"? Maybe it was a time when you felt alone, forgotten, or abandoned?
6. This Bible passage usually reminds us that whatever comes our way God is faithful. It's this beautiful reminder of God's promised presence in our lives. There is an additional way to look at these words from Romans, though. It also reminds us that once we really experience and know the love of God in our own lives, we don't forget it. We can't shake it. God's love leaves an imprint on us. It's a part of us! So much so, that we "can't not" live our lives filled with that love. And, that love propels us to do things we wouldn't otherwise do — like caring about the lives of women on the other side of the world. How has God's love "infected" you?

MOVING FORWARD

Pray for the women of Bihar. Pray for their strength and courage so that their families might know the life God wants for all people. And, pray for us, that we too — infected by God's love in Jesus Christ — might have the strength and courage to continue to stand with and support the women of Bihar!