

**PAIN – LIFE Group Study Guide**  
**TAKE A STAND**  
**Pastor Miles McPherson, October 2nd, 2016**

This week, Pastor Miles: Brought a personal, emotional, and spiritual message to the church. Today we will encounter each of these aspects as they relate to each of us.

**Opening Discussion**

1. What has the Father already said that His people can do to "heal their land"?
2. How are we to feel and do about our enemies and those who persecute us?
3. If we are standing on the Rock what "side" will we take on our next encounter with pain, suffering, and evil?

**Group Activity**

1. Last week, Pastor Miles described how our response to pain should glorify & honor God and how we can prepare our self before pain comes. What actions did or could you have taken to help you in the response to this weeks tragedy?
2. Pastor Miles stated that we all want peace and justice. Discuss who and where we have gone to, or perhaps still go to in order to seek peace and justice?
3. Recount a time when you have prayed for those who are strongly opposed to you and or your values, and describe how you, they, or God responded to those prayers?
4. Without specifically identifying names describe any conflict that you are currently involved in and lead your group in prayer over them.

**Going Deeper**

1. Identify some of the "go to" sources of information we rely on when we are trying to determine what side we are on during times of conflict.
2. What "go to" sources of information are most likely to be under the influence of the rulers, powers, and principalities of this world?
3. What "go to" sources of information are least likely to be under those influences?

4. What are the things that come from a person's mouth and where do they come from?

### **Take it Home**

1. What has our Lord revealed to you about your reaction to this and perhaps other polarizing events that you have experienced? What can it reveal about your heart?
2. Lucifer gives us many choices (all wrong) in each decision we make or side we take, while Jesus only gives us one. How can we know which one is His?
3. Looking upon choices that we have already made and sides we have already chosen, in which ones have we not considered that our heart has followed our Lord's will?
4. Pray for God's protection on all of us from this and against every evil desire from within and from without.
5. Watch the video of the South Carolina church shooting victim's parents forgiveness, and pray for both sides.

<http://www.cnn.com/videos/tv/2015/06/19/charleston-shooting-dylann-roof-hearing-relatives-bts-nr.cnn/video/playlists/charleston-church-shooting-massacre/>

### **MEMORY VERSE**

But the things that come out of a person's mouth come from the heart, and these defile them. Matthew 15:18