

Stand at the CrossRoads

Week 3: January 15-21, 2023

I've Been Everywhere (pt. 1: Physical Brokenness)

This year, we are focusing on how life brings us to “crossroads.” These crossroads bring spiritual, emotional, mental, physical, and social challenges. Which way should we go? What should we do? Such questions leave us in great uncertainty on what is best for us and those we love. We are going to journey in 2023 through various sermon series on Bible passages where the characters in the story come to different types of crossroads. Here, we will find ourselves evaluating the options before them and before us. We will also explore how we can help others at pivotal times in their journeys, supporting them as they seek faith and meaning in the decisions and circumstances they face.

In this packet, you will find a few additional resources that will help you to further evaluate how to process the crossroads in your life, your family, and your faith community. These extra activities are not meant to be a spiritual formality on your weekly to do list. Rather, they are optional ways that you can consider as you walk through life. Only do what is helpful to you as you walk with Jesus each week. I'll meet you at the CrossRoads!



Discussion Questions

Go to Patrick Wilson's YouTube page and watch the video devotional for this week: I've Been Everywhere (pt. 1: Physical Brokenness). Then, consider and discuss with your family/friends the following questions:

- What physical challenges did Elijah face?
- How did God provide for him in these challenges?
- What do you think helped Elijah to avoid getting deeply discouraged and hopeless?
- How did the woman of Zerephath share what she had even though it was little?
- How might God use your "little" to help others who are hungry or homeless?
- Elijah questions God when the boy dies. Do you think this is a sign of little faith? Explain.
- How can you share the pain of others who are sick or grieving?

Bible Study & Prayer: Going Deeper

Consider what ministries are in your community to help the hungry, homeless, sick, or grieving. Evaluate ways that you could join in the care of people who are suffering.

Proverbs 14:31 says, "Whoever oppresses the poor shows contempt for their Maker, but whoever is kind to the needy honors God." Do you think oppression is just a volitional act or does it also include being negligent of the needs of the poor?

Here, the wise sage correlates the value of the person with the worth of his/her Maker. The text reflects that if we oppress someone, even someone who is poor or marginalized by society, we are making a mockery of his/her Creator. Rather, we are to be kind to the needy, which brings honor to God.

Spend time praying this week for those who are needy around you: hungry, homeless, sick, or grieving. Ask God to show you how to be "kind" in a way that honors the Lord.

Family Activity

It is important to talk to your kids about the struggles that many face in society today like hunger.

Come up with some discussion points to talk about over a meal together as a family. For additional guidance, consider these resources at Feeding America: <https://www.feedingamerica.org/sites/default/files/take-action/campaigns/summer-hunger/family-action-plan.pdf>

Then, as a family come up with something that you can personally do to help someone who is hungry. Some ideas might include:

- Prepare a meal for a local meal program
- Collect food for the local food pantry
- Participate in a walk fundraiser for hunger
- Create your own fundraiser through a bake sale or lemonade stand
- Volunteer at the food bank
- Connect with a person affected by hunger
- Make Ziploc bags with non-perishable essentials and put them in your car to give away when you see people in need
- Read a children's book about hunger, such as *Poverty and Hunger* or *Hungry Johnny*

Connecting with Others

Get together with a friend and ask him/her about a family member that was meaningful in his/her life but who has passed away. Request that your friend share with you what their family member did in the family and the community to help others. Ask about the attributes and values that the person had that really made him/her stand out. Thank your friend for sharing with you.

Think about what you learned. Reflect on what you could do to have a similar impact on another person in your life. Set a goal for the year of one way you want to grow in helping others.