

Stand at the CrossRoads

Week 4: January 22-28, 2023

I've Been Everywhere (pt. 2: Spiritual 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. 2: Spiritual Brokenness). Then, consider and discuss with your family/friends the following questions:

- How was Elijah confronted for his spiritual service to God?
- How have you experienced spiritual confrontation for what you believe?
- Why is it important to leave space for each person to come to his/her own belief about God rather than trying to force your views on them?
- Consider the steps to spiritual transformation that Elijah demonstrated. Which one do you need to focus more attention on right now in your life?
- Instead of trying to "cover up" your mistakes, shortcomings, and flaws, how might God desire to use them to mature you and help others grow spiritually?

Bible Study & Prayer: Going Deeper

Compare these two verses. The first is about Samuel and the second about Jesus:

1 Samuel 2:26: And the boy Samuel continued to grow in stature and in favor with the Lord and with people.

Luke 2:52: And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.

What similarities stand out to you about these two individuals? What does this say about the importance of spiritual growth?

Both Samuel and Jesus grew in their understanding of God and their personal relationships with others. This doesn't mean that everyone liked them, but it means that they prioritized relationships—loving God and loving people.

Spend time praying this week for your own spiritual growth. Ask God to show you areas that need attention and where he is working in you and around you. Join him in this great work.

Family Activity

Plan a worship service at home this week. Be sure to include everyone in the family in your planning.

Select a day of the week when you want to have your family worship service. Let each person pick out his/her favorite song(s) to sing. Look up videos to watch of these songs and all join in the worship celebration. Pick someone to read a passage of the Bible. Take turns sharing

about what that Bible passage means to each person. Let the person who read the passage go first and then circle around the room to each person.

Share prayer requests with each other. Talk about how you see God working in these situations that you are praying about. Spend a few minutes praying for each of these requests.

After the service take a few minutes to discuss what worship means to you as a family. Here are a few sample questions that you can use to get you started:

- What is worship?
- Why is it important for us to worship alone? Why is it important to worship with others? What is the same? What is different?
- What is the most meaningful part of worship for you? Why?
- How does our worship apply to how we live our lives each day?

Connecting with Others

While personal Bible study is a significant part of one's development, there is great value in getting involved in studying the Bible and reflecting on life in a group. If you are not in a small group Bible study, explore options in your church or community. If you are already in a small group, spend time reflecting on the value of studying the Bible and sharing life with others in the group.

Take time this week to thank your small group or Bible study leader(s). Also, express your appreciation for others who share in your small group and how they encourage you.