

STAND AT THE CROSSROADS

Week 7: February 12-18, 2023

I've Been Everywhere (pt. 5: Relational 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. 5: Relational Brokenness).

Then, consider and discuss with your family/friends the following questions:

- Why do you think Elisha refused to stay behind as Elijah traveled?
- What miraculous event(s) did Elisha and the other prophets witness at the Jordan River?
- Why do you think God left the chariot of fire but took Elijah in the whirlwind?
- How was God's presence and power demonstrated through Elisha in a similar way to that of his mentor?
- Who is needing a friend right now in your life? How can you support him/her?
- In what ways do you experience God's presence in brokenness right now?

Bible Study & Prayer: Going Deeper

Read and meditate on Joshua 1:5b: "As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you."

Read/skim back over Moses' life, particularly in the book of Exodus. Reflect on when and how you witness God being with Moses. Particular events that might come to mind include the protection at his birth, the message at the burning bush, the confrontation with Pharaoh, the giving of the commandments, etc.

In the above verse, God tells Joshua that he is the same God who was with Moses, and he will be with him as he leads the nation into the Promised Land. In addition, God says that he will be with Joshua in a similar fashion to his predecessor. When you consider the various ways that God was with Moses, how do you think Joshua feels when he hears this message from God?

The very same God who was with Moses and Joshua was also with Elijah and Elisha, and he is with you. This does not mean that he will do the same things as those before us. God continues to work uniquely in each of our lives.

Yet, the same God is with us.

Spend time with God today, celebrating that he is with you and is fully capable to handle whatever brokenness you are experiencing.

Rest in the presence of God who loves you and promises to walk with you in your brokenness.

Family Activity

Friday, February 17, 2023, is Random Acts of Kindness Day. One of the best ways that you can help others going through relational brokenness is to express kindness to them. This can be to a long time friend, a family member, or even a total stranger.

As a family, look over the list of ideas on the supplemental handout: Random Acts of Kindness compiled by Delinda Gillardi. Identify ones that you would like to try to do this week as you serve and express care for others. On the lines below, write out what you decide as a family to do this week. See if you can continue these and other kind deeds in the weeks to come:

Connecting with Others

This week we saw how Elisha traveled with Elijah even when Elijah expressed that it was not necessary to do so. Consider traveling with someone this week through one of the following ways:

- Give him/her a ride to a doctor's appointment
- Go for a walk or hike with him/her
- Offer to ride with him/her on a necessary outing and keep them company
- Carpool to take kids to school or a extra-curricular activity together
- Go get ice cream or some other snack together with him/her
- Meet up for lunch together
- Go for a walk or bike ride together in your neighborhood
- Have a joint family picnic
- Take your dog(s) for a walk or to the dog park with each other
- Catch a movie together
- Go shopping for clothes together

While you may accomplish additional goals, the main purpose of this outing is to build connection. Ask about him/her, see what is going on in his/her life, and about the struggles he/she is facing. Offer to be a friend even in the broken spaces. Remind them that they are not alone.