

STAND AT THE CROSSROADS

Week 10: March 5-11, 2023

Old Town Road (pt. 3: Capernaum)

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: Old Town Road (p.t 3: Capernaum). Then, consider and discuss with your family/friends the following questions:

- What do you think happened to cause the disciples to argue over greatness?
- Who is someone you consider to be great in our world, today? Why?
- What do you learn about Jesus' approach to handling this conflict among his disciples?
- What do you think it means to be a servant to all?
- Why do you think Jesus chose a child as his illustration of greatness?
- Who is someone that you can encourage and lift up this week who is an outcast in society?

Bible Study & Prayer: Going Deeper

Read and meditate on Luke 22:27:

For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one who is at the table? But I am among you as one who serves.

This verse is situated during the Lord's Supper where Jesus is celebrating the Passover with his disciples shortly before his betrayal, arrest, and crucifixion. According to Luke, the disciples are once again disputing over who is the greatest. Jesus poses a question contrasting the position of the one who is seated at the table of honor with the person serving the guests. The societal emphasis was to place the most important people at the head of the table, so when Jesus asks who is greater the obvious answer is the person seated and not the servant. However, Jesus goes on to equate himself with the servant.

What is Jesus' point? Jesus chooses to position himself with the servant not to suggest that the person sitting at the table is of lesser value but to emphasize that the servant is of equal value. Jesus also suggests that those who follow him will prioritize the attitude of a servant.

Spend time this week asking God to show you how to be a better servant. Then, put feet to your prayers by living in such a way that you exalt others and validate their greatness. In so doing you are lifting up Jesus.

Family Activity

Who holds the Guinness World Record? There are some amazing world records out there. Consider these odd ones:

- Jamie Keeton, aka "Canhead," or "Canpa" to his grandchildren, used air suction to affix 10 empty beverage cans to his face and shaved head, earning the record when the cans remained in place for at least 5 seconds.
- Jacob Chandler of Oregon found all 26 English-language letters in a can of alphabet soup and placed them in order in 2 minutes and 8.6 seconds after researching unusual Guinness World Records to impress his son, Brycen.
- Iron-stomached California man Gregory Foster ate 10 Carolina reaper chilies -- the hottest peppers in the world -- in 33.15 seconds.
- Serial record-breaker David Rush earned his 250th Guinness World Records title when he used the breath in his lungs to blow a pea a distance of 84 feet and 11.28 inches across a level floor.
- Lim Kai Yi of Butterworth, Malaysia, put his award-winning puzzle solving skills to an unusual test when he took a fully-disassembled Mr. Potato Head toy and put all of the pieces in the proper spots in 5.43 seconds.

Consider setting up your own family world record contests. Be creative. Have fun. Remember that greatness is more about accepting others than winning!

Connecting with Others

Pick a people group that is socially marginalized or shunned by others. Then, read an age-appropriate book about that people group. Then, consider reaching out to someone in that people group and asking them to share about their experiences.

Be sure to thank them for opening up to you about their life experiences.

Here is a partial list of people groups you might consider learning about:

- physically handicapped
- another race or nationality
- a different age bracket
- someone from another country
- person with mental disorder
- person with incurable disease
- an LGBTQ+ individual
- a former prisoner
- someone who is blind or deaf
- person missing an arm or leg
- someone with a learning disability or sensory issue