



Crossroads Sermon Study

The Bridge: Bridges of Compassion

Jonah 4:1-11

March 24, 2024

Lean In: On a scale from 1-10, how do you feel about driving over bridges? (1=I am so terrified I close my eyes, 10=I love it! The higher and longer the better!)

Look In: Read **Jonah 4:1-11** aloud together and write verses 2 in your journal.

Look Back: What stood out to you most about this week's teaching? What questions do you have? What encouraged you? What challenged you? What comforted you?

Take it Deeper:

1. What is making you angry these days?
 - a. What is your "other side"? Is it more relational rifts or societal rifts?
 - b. What hurt/anger do you have a hard time letting go?
2. How would you describe your personal experience and understanding of the compassionate heart of God?
3. Read Jonah 4:11 and Luke 19:41-44. What do we learn about God from these passages? When was the last time you felt such sorrow for lost people?
4. *People who believe they are doing the right thing end up on the wrong side because of what's inside their own hearts.* How do you know if you are on the "right side" or the "wrong side"? Read Joshua 5:13-14. How does it make you feel to know that God doesn't take sides? How does it make you feel to know that God loves your enemies?
5. Read Jonah 2:9. What do you think happened between chapter 2 and chapter 4 to cause Jonah to forget the compassion of God? Why is it so easy to accept the compassion of God for ourselves but not for others?
6. Challenge: If you want to make a difference by building bridges in a divided world you start by looking at the division in your own heart. Write down all the things you dislike about the person (or group) on the "the other side." Now next to it, write down which of those things you have done in your own life.

Look Up: *God, Your Word tells us that you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity. Help me to experience your great love and compassion in a way that changes the way that I view everyone else. I want to have a heart of compassion like You.*