

LENTEN STUDY BOOKLET

Theme: Repairing the Broken Bridge

A Lenten Journey of Return and Restoration

A Six-Week Study from Ash Wednesday to Palm Sunday

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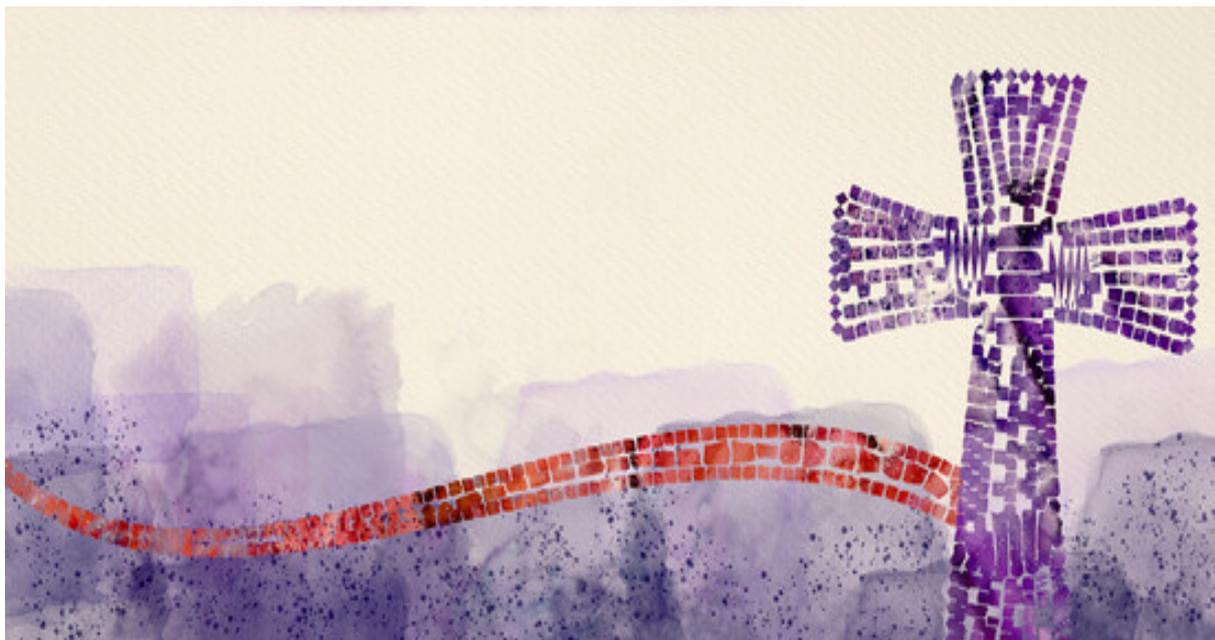


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SECTION 1

THEOLOGICAL FOUNDATION

The Theology of Repairing the Broken Bridge

God as the Initiator of Restoration

The story of Scripture is the story of God reaching toward humanity. God is the first mover in reconciliation. Christ becomes the bridge between heaven and earth, restoring what sin fractured.

Seeing the Breach

The prophets teach that healing begins with truth. Lent is a season of holy noticing acknowledging the gaps between God's desire and our lived reality.

God Meets Us in the Middle

God does not repair from a distance. God steps into what is broken, into of our pain, our injustice, our separation and restores us from within.

Personal and Communal Restoration

Fractures exist in our hearts, relationships, communities, and systems. Lent calls us to repair both the inner bridge and the bridges between people.

Joining God's Mission of Repair

Restored people become restorers. We participate in God's mission through forgiveness, justice, compassion, and reconciliation.

SECTION 2

INTRODUCTION

Lent invites us into a sacred journey of reflection, surrender, and renewal. In the Christian tradition, Lent is a season set aside for prayer, repentance, and spiritual returning, a time to slow down, examine the heart, and make space for God's restoring work. This year's theme, *Repairing the Broken Bridge: A Lenten Journey of Restoration and Return*, calls us to face the places where faith, relationships, and hope have been strained, and to walk with Christ toward healing. These simple resources are offered to guide the spiritual formation and discipleship of God's people whether used individually, in adult or youth groups, or within study gatherings.

Repairing the Broken Bridge invites us into a season of honesty, prayer, and spiritual rebuilding. A bridge symbolises connection: between us and God, between us and others, and within our own hearts. Over time, that bridge can weaken through distraction, disappointment, sin, or spiritual neglect. Lent becomes God's gracious invitation to step into the broken places and allow His restoring work to begin again.

This study is designed as a simple, accessible guide that opens the way for meaningful and deeper conversations. From Ash Wednesday to Palm Sunday, individuals and groups will explore how God rebuilds the bridge of relationship and how we participate in that restoration through repentance, prayer, forgiveness, trust, and renewed spiritual practices. May this journey draw us closer to God and to one another in grace and wholeness.

WEEK 1

ASH WEDNESDAY & FIRST WEEK OF LENT

Theme: Seeing the Broken Bridge

Scripture Readings

- ◇ Isaiah 58:12
- ◇ Psalm 139:23-24
- ◇ Joel 2:12-13

Reflection

Lent begins with honesty. We acknowledge the cracks in our spiritual bridge - places of distance, neglect, or erosion. God reveals these not to shame us but to heal us.

Theological Insight

Healing begins with truth. The prophets call God's people to see the brokenness before they can repair it.

Discussion Questions

- ◇ Where do you sense distance between you and God?
- ◇ What "cracks" have formed slowly over time?
- ◇ What emotions arise when you think about spiritual repair?

Spiritual Practice

Self-examination prayer: Sit in silence and ask God to reveal one area needing restoration.

Closing Prayer: God of mercy, open my eyes to the places where the bridge has weakened. Give me courage to face what is broken and trust your healing work.

WEEK 2

SECOND WEEK OF LENT

Theme: Naming the Causes of the Break

Scripture Readings

- ◇ Psalm 51
- ◇ Romans 7:15-25
- ◇ James 1:14-15

Reflection

Bridges break for reasons - storms, neglect, pressure, erosion. Our spiritual bridges break for reasons too. Naming the cause is the beginning of healing.

Theological Insight

Sin is rupture - a tearing of relationship. Lent invites us to name the forces that weaken our connection with God.

Discussion Questions

- ◇ What has contributed to the “break” in your connection with God?
- ◇ How do you typically respond when you feel spiritually distant?
- ◇ What truth is God inviting you to face?

Spiritual Practice

Confession Write a private confession letter to God.

Closing Prayer

Lord, help me name the real causes of my brokenness. Bring truth without shame and clarity without fear.

WEEK 3

THIRD WEEK OF LENT

Theme: God the Master Builder

Scripture Readings

- ◇ Nehemiah 2:17-20
- ◇ Psalm 147:3
- ◇ Philippians 1:6

Reflection

We do not repair the bridge alone. God is the architect and builder who restores what we cannot fix.

Theological Insight

God meets us in our brokenness. Restoration is God's work before it is ours.

Discussion Questions

- ◇ Where do you need God to rebuild what you cannot?
- ◇ What does it mean to trust God as the builder?
- ◇ How have you seen God restore broken places in the past?

Spiritual Practice

Surrender prayer - Open your hands and release one area to God.

Closing Prayer

God, rebuild what I cannot repair. Strengthen the weak places and restore the foundations of my faith.

WEEK 4

FOURTH WEEK OF LENT

Theme: Rebuilding Through Forgiveness

Scripture Readings

- ◇ Matthew 6:14-15
- ◇ Colossians 3:12-14
- ◇ Luke 15:11-24

Reflection

Unforgiveness erodes the bridge; forgiveness restores it.

Theological Insight

Forgiveness is the beam that holds the bridge together. It is central to reconciliation.

Discussion Questions

- ◇ Who do you need to forgive?
- ◇ What forgiveness do you need to receive?
- ◇ How does unforgiveness weaken your spiritual bridge?

Spiritual Practice

Forgiveness exercise - Write the name of someone you need to forgive. Place names in the container or basket and leave them under the cross. Then pray

Closing Prayer

God of grace, teach me to forgive as you forgive. Restore the bridge through mercy.

WEEK 5

FIFTH WEEK OF LENT

Theme: Strengthening the Bridge Through Spiritual Practices

Scripture Readings

- ◇ John 15:1-8
- ◇ Psalm 1
- ◇ 1 Timothy 4:7-8

Reflection

A repaired bridge must be maintained. Spiritual practices strengthen our connection with God.

Theological Insight

Spiritual disciplines are means of grace - ways we stay connected with God.

Discussion Questions

- ◇ Which spiritual practices strengthen your connection with God?
- ◇ Which practices have you neglected?
- ◇ What is one practice you can commit to this week?

Spiritual Practice

Choose one practice to commit to daily.

Closing Prayer

Lord, strengthen my connection with you. Help me build rhythms that keep the bridge strong.

WEEK 6

PALM SUNDAY WEEK

Theme: Walking the Restored Bridge

Scripture Readings

- ◇ Luke 19:28-40
- ◇ Hebrews 12:1-3
- ◇ 2 Corinthians 5:17-20

Reflection

Jesus repairs the bridge between humanity and God through His sacrifice. We now walk the restored bridge with renewed purpose.

Theological Insight

Palm Sunday reveals Jesus entering the breach - the place of suffering and restoration.

Discussion Questions

- ◇ What has God restored in you this Lent?
- ◇ What new commitments will you carry forward?
- ◇ How can you help others repair their bridges?

Spiritual Practice

Act of reconciliation - Reach out to someone you need to reconnect with.

Closing Prayer

Jesus, thank you for restoring the bridge through your love. Help me walk in renewed connection and share your restoration with others.

NOTES & REFLECTIONS

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