



**Face the Issue:**

This week we are beginning a new series called Rerouting. Over the next several weeks we will be looking at our lives and at how we get sidetracked or lose our way.

We starts this series by looking at the original rerouting. As Jeremy shared, it happened because Adam and Eve decided that they did not like being forbidden by God to do something and did it anyway. This reminds us that sometimes God does tell us “No”. How do you react when God tells you no.

*Think back to when you were a kid. What sort of dreams consumed you? What did you think you had to have or do to feel happy? What did other children have that you wished you had too?*

**Into the Word:**

**Read Psalm 8:3–4.**

God knows us better than we know ourselves.

We’ve heard this truth about God so many times that it may forget what it really means. *Of course* God knows more about our lives than we do. But do we pray as if what we say with our mouths has not found its way into our hearts? Do we just assume that God would grant our request without hesitation, if only He knew what we really needed? Do we pray as if we’re trying to convince a stranger to do what we want?

The Book of Common Prayers published by the Episcopal Church contains this prayer:

“Almighty God, the fountain of all wisdom, you know our necessities before we ask and our ignorance in asking: Have compassion on our weakness, and mercifully give us those things which for our unworthiness we dare not, and for our blindness we cannot ask; through the worthiness of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.”

*What do you think is meant by “ignorance in our asking”?*

*When are you more likely to feel close to God? Do you draw closer because a crisis reminds you of your limitations? Do you draw closer out of gratitude for a peaceful day or week or month? When are you most likely to disregard God?*

## **Apply The Word**

Just like Adam and Eve's lives were rerouted because they did not like being told no, we face the temptation of rerouting from God's will for our lives when He seems to tell us no by not directly answering our prayers.

Remember that Jesus gave us a model prayer that includes the phrase "Thy will be done". We must not allow our selfishness cause us to go off track in our life journey with God.

*Can you recall a time when you prayed about a problem and expressed your heart's desire for God's intervention but left the matter in his hands? How did God's answer to your prayer differ from what you hoped would happen? How did you see God's handiwork in the results? Did you sense that your prayer made a tangible difference in the situation?*