



**Sunday, Jul 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

**Worship Music:**

- Sound of the Saints
- How great Thou Art
- Still
- I Shall Not Want
- Stand Firm

**The Bridge – Facilitators**

*Facilitator Notes:*

- 1. Before starting, take a moment to introduce yourself, and then move around the circles and have everyone share their name and where they are from.*
- 2. Starting discussion of each question with different members and moving around the circle is a good way to get people starting to share.*
- 3. Make sure everyone knows they do not have to share and can say “pass” on their turn.*
- 4. You might want to write down some key points from the discussion so you can share with the wide group.*
- 5. This is only a guide. As the facilitator, you may wish to take (or follow) your group in different directions, with different questions, various opinions and conclusions. Diversity is welcome.*

What **emotions** come up for you as you hear this story? How come?

*Try to encourage emotions **and** thoughts (eg. I felt frustration. It wasn't fair that the man was forced to help)*

What do we think of the man with a plan and what he ended up doing?

What do we think of the jumper?

Who comes up in your mind when you hear this story?

*We might see ourselves in the story, or we may connect people in our lives with either character (it may be best to avoid using real names).*

Read Micah 6:8

“He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you?

To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.”

**turn over**

Do we ever find ourselves having to choose between **love** and **justice**?

*If people are struggling with this idea, we can mention the example of parenting; when we desire to rescue our children from pain or suffering but also want them to learn.*

In Christianity, we are called to love mercy. But what if loving mercy was actually hurting the person we are showing mercy to, as well as ourselves? What might be examples of this?

An example of this is giving someone a fish rather than teaching them to fish. Or someone devoting so much time to the church they neglect their family.

Has there been a time where we showed too much mercy at the cost of everyone involved? Or has there been a time when we made others responsible for our problems?

Sometimes we use a form of mercy and grace to avoid dealing with a problem. For example, peacekeeping instead of peacemaking. Often “trying to keep the peace” leads to more suffering and worse outcomes.

Micah 6:8 also mentions “humility.” Humility is the ability to recognize the proper level of one’s own significance compared to others. In other words, “you are not more or less significant than me, and I am not more or less significant than you”. How could humility help navigate the balance between loving mercy and acting justly?