



CELL GUIDE

TOPIC Building Bridges

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THEME OT Kings of Judah: Lessons

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MESSAGE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

Like building bridges, BCS brings love to the community through its works and helps the community to cross over to experience God's love in a personal way. Like kings, we as children of God are entrusted with the ability, influence, power and responsibility to make an impact in other people's lives. We can demonstrate the same traits as the kings of Judah to obey in deed (King Asa), exemplify the pursuit of God's heart (King Jehoshaphat) and partner God (King Joash) in bringing about changes in the lives of others.

INVESTING WITH GOD

COVID-19 has caused the world to change in unprecedented ways and left many in our community struggling to keep up and survive. As children of God, there are things we can do in partnership with Him to help our community.

Helping our community is akin to an investment. As King Solomon, the richest man in history, said in Proverbs 19:17: "Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, and He will reward them for what they have done."

- Kindness to the poor can also be read as **Pity** (Hebrew: "Chanan"). Pity and kindness go beyond a mere thought of "I feel bad for this person" as it means being gracious, considerate, and showing favour towards the person in need. We obey the Lord in deed by putting our thoughts and feelings into action.
- The meaning of **Lend** in Hebrew ("Lavah") means to twine, and by implication, to unite and remain. We lend to the Lord and in turn become intertwined and united with Him when we do good or show pity to a person in need. The relationship between a bank (debtor) and customer (lender) is an example that can be used to understand a lender relationship. The safer and stronger the bank is, the more money the customer will entrust to it. Likewise, if we think God is good for His word, we will invest with Him by showing pity to the poor. As we begin to trust Him more, learn to take God at His word. We will then come into a relationship with Him and God will honour the trust that we have put in Him.
- The concept of **Payback** is expressed in "He will reward them for what they have done". An equivalent expression can be found in Luke 6:38. When we do a kind deed to the poor, God will treat the act as a loan to Him, and like a seller measuring out grain at a market to sell to his

customer, He will repay us with a good measure, pressed down, shaken together and poured into our laps.

CONCLUSION

The Choluteca Bridge in Honduras, Central America, was built with superior Japanese engineering to withstand hurricanes and natural disasters that beset the area. In 1998, a major hurricane struck Honduras and dumped massive amounts of water into the basin. While the hurricane did not destroy the bridge, the roads leading to the bridge were destroyed. The hurricane also changed the course of the river so that it no longer ran under the bridge but moved to the side of the bridge. Thus, while the bridge was not destroyed, it was rendered useless as it was not connected to roads and led to nowhere.

Similarly, we can be good Christians with good values, wanting to do good in our hearts. We may think that we have done some good things and helped some people in the past. However, hurricanes come and affect people differently, altering the course of their lives. We must therefore be careful not to become like the Choluteca Bridge, looking great as Christians on the surface, but effectively useless as far as the people around us are concerned.

Changes have come to the community around us due to COVID-19 even if some of us may feel unaffected now as we still have our families, health and jobs. God has called us into a partnership, not to live our lives for our own good, but to live out a faith that is relevant and will glorify Him in the midst of an unbelieving and suffering world. As a child of God invested with kingly influence and responsibility, what will your response be?

QUESTIONS

1. Take a moment to recall and reflect: How has God been good to you and provided for your needs? Was there a time in which you needed help and someone had showed kindness to you?

2. What are some challenges you face in showing kindness to the people around you?

3. The story of the Choluteca Bridge reminds us to live out a faith relevant in the world and glorify Him. Take a moment to reflect on someone/a community around you whom you know has a felt need, or whom you know has been impacted because of COVID-19. What is one practical way that you can show kindness to this person/the identified community?