

Road Trip



Discussion Guide “The Roundabout” Pastor Jelani Lewis

Starter Share about a time when you took the long way to get somewhere. Was it because of traffic, bad directions, construction, a wrong turn, or a failing GPS? What happened, and did anything unexpected (good or bad) come from it?

Sermon Summary

Life doesn't always follow the route we expect, and sometimes God leads us through unexpected delays and detours. In this message, Pastor Jelani Lewis explores how God's love, faithfulness, and presence give us confidence to trust Him, even when the journey takes the long way around.

ACT

As you absorb sermons, read, or participate in group discussion, take notes and make a plan to apply what God's teaching you.

A (Action): Mark important ideas with an “A” to remind you to take action.

C (Contemplate): Use a “C” to mark ideas you want to process further.

T (Transfer/Teach): If it's something you need to teach to someone else, note it with a “T.”

Read

What do these Scriptures teach you about God's character? (Read some or all verses together.)

[Exodus 13:17–22](#)
[Psalms 37:3](#)

[Hosea 11:1](#)
[Lamentations 3:20–23](#)

[Hosea 11:4](#)
[Psalms 46:1](#)

[John 11:5–6](#)
[Genesis 28:15–16](#)

Discuss

Choose questions to keep the discussion moving. There's no need to discuss every question.

1. Have you ever experienced a “roundabout” season in life where things took much longer than you expected? What did God teach you during that time?
2. Why do you think it can be difficult to trust God's timing when His plans don't seem to match our expectations?
3. Pastor Jelani said that God's love sometimes leads us the long way for our protection and preparation. How have you seen that principle play out in your own life?

4. How does remembering God's past faithfulness strengthen your trust in Him for current challenges or future uncertainties?
5. What might change in your daily life if you became more aware of God's presence and activity in the season you're currently experiencing?

Go Deeper

1. Study [Genesis 12:1–4](#); [21:1–7](#) (Abraham waits for God's promise). How might God use seasons of waiting to deepen our faith and dependence on Him?
2. Study [1 Samuel 16:1–13](#); [2 Samuel 5:1–5](#) (David anointed but not yet king). What character qualities can God develop in us during the gap between His promise and its fulfillment?
3. Study [2 Corinthians 12:7–10](#) (Paul's thorn in the flesh). How can unanswered prayers or ongoing challenges reveal God's strength in our lives?
4. Study [Luke 24:13–35](#) (Jesus on the road to Emmaus). How can we become more aware of God's presence when circumstances make Him seem distant?

Apply

1. Start a journal, gratitude jar, or note on your phone where you regularly record answered prayers and examples of God's faithfulness. Review it whenever you're discouraged or waiting on God.
2. Each morning this week, pray: "God, make me aware of Your presence and activity in my life today." Take a few moments each evening to reflect on where you noticed Him at work.
3. Identify an area where you're frustrated by God's timing and surrender that situation to Him. Instead of rushing through your current season, look for opportunities to grow, serve, and deepen your relationship with God right where you are. Ask yourself, "What does God want to do in me before He does something through me?"

Pray

Here are some prayer points:

1. Ask God to help you trust His timing and purposes, especially in areas where you feel delayed, discouraged, or uncertain.
2. Ask God to prepare your heart for Him to use every detour, challenge, and waiting season to develop your character, deepen your faith, and prepare you for what lies ahead.
3. When you're overwhelmed, ask God to show you His love for you. His love is His presence.
4. Thank God for His faithfulness in the past and ask Him to strengthen your confidence that He will continue to guide you, provide for you, and fulfill His promises in the future.

Leadership Tip

Great leaders don't just focus on reaching the destination. They recognize that God often does His deepest work in the journey. When progress feels slower than expected, resist the urge to force outcomes; instead, trust that God may be using the delay to develop character, strengthen faith, and prepare both you and those you lead for what's ahead.