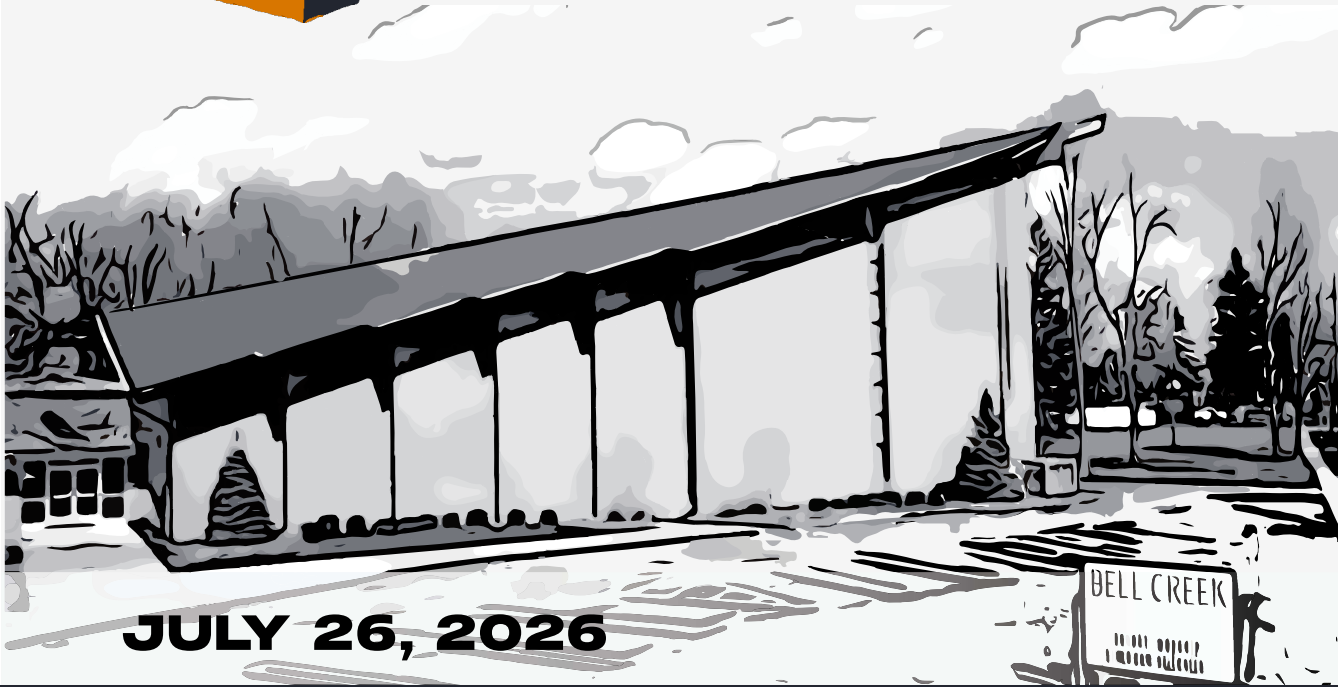


WELCOME TO



BELL CREEK

Community Church



JULY 26, 2026

NOWHERE ELSE TO TURN

JUDGES 10:1—11:11

SERMON BY: PASTOR FRED WRIGHT

CURRENT SERMON SERIES:
JUDGES—THE GOD WHO DELIVERS

NOWHERE ELSE TO TURN

JUDGES 10:1—11:11

We Turn Away from the God Who Saves

We Discover Our False Gods Cannot Save

We Must Turn Back to the True Deliverer

FOR NEXT WEEK

Read Judges Chapter 10-12 again!

DAILY CHRONOLOGICAL BIBLE READING

JULY 26: ISAIAH 40-43

JULY 27: ISAIAH 44-48

JULY 28: 2 KINGS 18:9-19:37; PSALM 46, 80, 135

JULY 29: ISAIAH 49-53

JULY 30: ISAIAH 54-58

JULY 31: ISAIAH 59-63

AUGUST 1: ISAIAH 64-66

UPCOMING AT THE CREEK

FINANCIAL UPDATE

The Bell Creek Financial Team will give a financial update today immediately following both services.

DADCO

DadCo is a community just for dads that gives an opportunity to build real friendships, share honest advice on parenting and life, and helps dads find encouragement through monthly meetups and events. Whether you are a new dad or your kids are grown, DadCo equips you to thrive as a father, husband, and man-together in community! The ministry meets the first Monday of each month. Join us at our next gathering on Monday, August 2 at 6:30 PM in the Prayer Room. Please reach out to Alex Quint or email info@bellcreek.org to learn more.

KIDS' CREEK MIDWEEK

Children ages 4 through 4th Grade are invited to the Large Group Room to enjoy Bible Lessons, discussion, activities, worship, and games on Wednesday, August 5 from 6:30-7:45 PM. Please register your child at www.bellcreek.org/calendar to join us for the class. If you have any questions, please reach out to Rachel Nash (rachel@bellcreek.org) or Elyse Quint (elyse@bellcreek.org).

AWANA VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

If you are interested in serving, our AWANA Ministry is in need of volunteers to serve beginning in September. Please reach out to our AWANA Director, Gretchen Schick (awana@bellcreek.org) for more information.

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

Our Young Adult group is now open for adults 18-30 years old! Our next gathering will be Sunday, August 9, after the second service in the Prayer Room. Join us for lunch, fellowship, games, and encouragement in our faith. Other gatherings and outings will be planned for various times throughout the year. Join us as we gather and build friendships with other young people in a fun and laid-back environment!

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

PRAYER MEETINGS

WEDNESDAYS 6:30 - 7:30 PM

FRIDAYS 12 NOON

PRE-TEEN & MIDDLE SCHOOL BIBLE STUDY

WEDNESDAYS 6:30 - 7:45 PM

SUNDAYS AFTER WORSHIP

2ND SERVICE

AWANA

WEDNESDAYS 6:30 - 7:45 PM

SEPTEMBER-MAY

HIGH SCHOOL BIBLE STUDY

SUNDAYS 11:00 AM

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES
AND EVENTS AT BELLCREEK.ORG

OUR MISSION

MATTHEW 22:37–40

He said to him, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the greatest commandment. The second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself. All the law and prophets depend on these two commandments.”

MATTHEW 28:19–20

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember that I am with you always to the end of the age.

STAY CONNECTED

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU HERE!

WWW.BELLCREEK.ORG/CONTACT-US

FOLLOW US!



BELL CREEK
Community Church

30000 FIVE MILE RD.
LIVONIA, MI 48154

Sermon Series: Judges: The God Who Delivers

Sunday, July 26, 2026 | “Nowhere Else to Turn”

Judges 10:1–11:11

We Turn Away from the God Who Saves

God provides 55 years of stability through two judges: Tola and Jair. We know very little about them, but they gave Israel a blessed period of peace after the horrible turmoil of Abimelech.

But Israel again plunges into apostasy:

“The people of Israel again did what was evil in the sight of the LORD and served the Baals and the Ashtaroath, the gods of Syria, the gods of Sidon, the gods of Moab, the gods of the Ammonites, and the gods of the Philistines. And they forsook the LORD and did not serve him.” (Judges 10:6, ESV)

Judges 10:6 intensifies the usual pattern by piling up the names of the gods Israel serves.

Dale Ralph Davis says, this is not merely another fall into sin; Israel has “really committed apostasy.” Their faithlessness is “stacked high” it is “catastrophic.”

“So the anger of the LORD was kindled against Israel, and he sold them into the hand of the Philistines and into the hand of the Ammonites,” (Judges 10:7, ESV)

“and they crushed and oppressed the people of Israel that year. For eighteen years they oppressed all the people of Israel who were beyond the Jordan in the land of the Amorites, which is in Gilead.” (Judges 10:8, ESV)

God responds with severe discipline through both the Philistines and Ammonites. “Crushed and Oppressed” are significant words. Can also be translated “shattered.” The only other time this occurs is in Exodus 15:6 which says that God “shattered” the armies of Egypt. Now, the enemies of Israel (by God’s design) is shattering them!

We Discover Our False Gods Cannot Save

“And the people of Israel cried out to the LORD, saying, “We have sinned against you, because we have forsaken our God and have served the Baals.”” (Judges 10:10, ESV)

Israel confesses its sin and cries for deliverance.

“And the LORD said to the people of Israel, “Did I not save you from the Egyptians and from the Amorites, from the Ammonites and from the Philistines? The Sidonians also, and the Amalekites and the Maonites oppressed you, and you cried out to me, and I saved you out of their hand.” (Judges 10:11–12, ESV)

“Yet you have forsaken me and served other gods; therefore I will save you no more. Go and cry out to the gods whom you have chosen; let them save you in the time of your distress.”” (Judges 10:13–14, ESV)

God confronts them with their wearisome, repeated pattern: He saves, they abandon Him, then they return to Him when they are in distress.

Beware against treating God like a divine emergency service or “vending machine” who is only used whenever trouble comes. DO NOT keep God “under glass” for whenever you need Him – “Break Only in case of emergency!” God despises being treated that way. He is the Creator and Sustainer of everyone and everything. In Him we live and move and have our being! He WILL be worshipped!

“And the people of Israel said to the LORD, “We have sinned; do to us whatever seems good to you. Only please deliver us this day.”” (Judges 10:15, ESV)

“So they put away the foreign gods from among them and served the LORD, and he became impatient over the misery of Israel.” (Judges 10:16, ESV)

Israel then puts away the foreign gods and serves the LORD. The great turning point is 10:16: God “became impatient over the misery of Israel.” In other words, God was fed up with their suffering and was going to have mercy on them!

Key emphasis: It’s good, very good, and right to confess our sins to the LORD and repent, but “Our hope does not rest in the sincerity of our repentance but in the intensity of Yahweh’s compassion.”
– Dale Ralph Davis

We Must Turn Back to the True Deliverer

Ammon gathers for war, but Israel has no leader.

Jephthah has been rejected by his brothers and driven away.

In their distress, the elders of Gilead return to the very man they had rejected.

Look at the parallels between Judges 10 and Judges 11 (from Dale Ralph Davies: Judges: So Great A Salvation):

Theme	Chapter 10	Chapter 11
Rejection	v. 6	vv. 1–3
Distress	vv. 7–9	v. 4
Repentance	v. 10	vv. 5–6
Objection	vv. 11–14	v. 7
Appeal	vv. 15–16a	v. 8
Acquiescence	v. 16b	vv. 9–11

Israel rejected the LORD; Gilead rejected Jephthah.

Israel cried to the LORD in distress; Gilead cried to Jephthah in distress.

Israel repents and turns to the LORD; Gilead repents and turns to Jephthah.

The LORD objects; Jephthah objects.

The people appeal to the Lord for help; Gilead appeals to Jephthah for help.

The LORD acquiesces and decides to deliver Israel; Jephthah acquiesces and decides to deliver Israel.

Jephthah's experience is an "acted parable" of Israel's treatment of the LORD and His response.

There is Another Who Was Despised and Rejected of Men!

God's people must seek salvation from Jesus the One whom they rejected!

The nations have rejected Him:

"Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD and against his Anointed, saying," (Psalm 2:1-2, ESV)

All of us have rejected Him:

"He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not." (Isaiah 53:3, ESV)

How do people typically react to rejection?

They become bitter. They withdraw. They retaliate. They try to prove themselves. They often want the people who hurt them to suffer. And if those people come to them needing help, there is often a strong desire for them to say, "Now you need me? No way!"

Jesus was rejected by all of us:

But rather than become bitter, Jesus remained compassionate.

Rather than withdrawing, Jesus came to rescue us, the very people who rejected him.

Rather than retaliating, Jesus prayed for us, who were his enemies, and died for them.

Jesus had nothing to prove. Rather than saving Himself, Jesus entrusted Himself to the Father.

Jesus didn't want to see us suffer eternal separation from God because of our sins; so, Jesus suffered and died for us, bearing the punishment of our sins.

And when people finally come back needing help from Jesus, rather than say "Now you need me? No! It's too bad and too late for you!" Jesus says, "Come to me."

"Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed." (Isaiah 53:4-5, ESV)

Question for those of us who know Jesus: Are you treating God as the Lord of your whole life, or only turning to Him when everything else fails?

Question for those of us who are not yet trusting in Jesus: We see in Judges 10 that all the false gods could not deliver Israel when enemies showed up. Who or what are you trusting your life and your so to? There is nothing in the world we can count on to help us or save us 100% Everything eventually fails. So, if the things you are trusting in cannot ultimately save you, where else will you turn but to Jesus, the rejected Savior who is now the risen Lord? He says, "Come to me!"

Question for those who are suffering: Do you believe that whatever you are facing - your troubles, your pain, your misery matters to God? Keep trusting Him and crying out to Him for help. He sees your troubles and He is not indifferent to it. He is loving and compassionate, and in His time, and in His way He will act on your behalf.



Nowhere Else to Turn

1. What stood out most to you from the sermon "Nowhere Else to Turn?"

2. Israel kept running back to other gods, even after repeatedly seeing His faithfulness. Why do you think it's so easy to do the same? What are some things you tend to rely on instead of God when life gets hard?

3. One of the big ideas from the sermon was that God's compassion is greater than our failures. How does that truth change the way you think about coming to God after you've sinned or drifted away from Him?

4. Jephthah was rejected by his own people, pointing us to Jesus, the One who was rejected but still welcomes sinners. What stands out to you about the way Jesus responds to people who have turned away from Him?

5. The sermon challenged you to not treat God like someone you only call when out of options. Are there any areas where you've been relying on yourself before turning to God? What would it look like to put Him first this week?

