



## **Bridge Over Troubled Water**

July 24, 2022

1 Kings 19:3-13a (MSG)

### **Connect**

- Simon and Garfunkel's *Bridge Over Troubled Water* was the Broadway member submitted song of focus for week three of our sermon series, "*Then Sings My Soul: Finding Sacred Hope in Secular Music.*" If you have familiarity with the song, speak to your memories of it. Pull up the song on the streaming source of your choosing and play it for the group. Share initial impressions. Name what sticks out to you and why.

### **Engage**

- Read *1 Kings 19:3-13a* from *The Message* translation of the Bible. This snippet of a much larger story shares Elijah's desperation following an epic battle that he won but was left alone and pursued by an army seeking to take his life. He's exhausted and ready for death if God would be so merciful. Have you ever felt such desperation? How did you pull through? Share as you are willing.
- How does Elijah's weariness strike an initial chord with the lyrics of *Bridge Over Troubled Water*?
- Ultimately, Elijah lands in a cave and God asks him the question, "*What are you doing here?*" After experiencing earthquakes and fires and noise of every chaotic variety, God whispers and only then Elijah comes out of the cave. God then asks him the same question again. Why ask the question twice? What is the difference when asking the second time?
- Do you hear from God? If so, how? How do you hear God best – through the noise? Through the silence?
- Simon and Garfunkel sold millions of copies of their famed song. It won countless awards and is revered around the globe. Even so, today, the two do not speak to each other. While they tried to, and did reunite a number of times through the years to perform this song, they cannot get along. From childhood friends to aging men no longer on speaking terms, they are tied together by this song. What advice would you give them about reconciling? What relationships have you struggled to reconcile in your life even when/if tied together by significant events and experiences that have shaped your lives? Discuss.

### **Next Steps**

- Download *Bridge Over Troubled Water* and listen to it several times through. Pull up versions on YouTube from other artists who have recorded it. Each time, pull out words, phrases or ideas as you hear them and reflect further on what is being said. Feel the music and discern how it makes you feel. What of this song might shape you moving forward in a positive way?

### **Pray**

*"The sacred and secular dance together at all times, God. Thank you for moving through a lyric or a riff in a way that gets right to our souls. Music is so often the direct beat of our spirits. Keep us leaning in and living eyes and ears forward. You are a bridge over troubled water, Lord, and we are grateful! Amen."*