



# Lent 3

## Me & You & Working It Through

March 4, 2018

**Scripture:** Exodus 20:1-17; Psalm 19; 1 Corinthians 1:18-25; John 2:13-22

**Focus statement:** We are in relationship with a God whose foolishness is wiser than human wisdom. We need relational guidelines to guide the *between*, although rigidly adhering to rules has the potential to come in between. How might we seek God each day and tend to the space between (for example, between relationship), rather than focus solely on the rules?

**Summary statement for bulletin:** Between Me & You and in all we go through, God's promise and God's love grow stitch by stitch.

### Song suggestions

**HWB 138** Let God, Who Called the Worlds

**HWB 487** Teach Me, O Lord

**HWB 543** I Long for Your Commandments

**HWB 548** Teach Me Thy Truth

**STJ 52** Jesus, Help Us Live in Peace

**STS 65** Abre mis ojos (Open My Eyes)

**STS 71** Gentle God, When We Are Driven

**STS 72** We Are Often Tossed and Driven

God's Love Is for Everybody by Bryan Moyer Suderman

I Will Bless You by Bryan Moyer Suderman

### Between Me & You theme song

Between me and you,  
in all the times you are struggling through,  
I will never turn my back on you,  
I choose to be there with you.

### Call to worship

**Leader:** Come rule makers, rule breakers, and you who are still finding your way. Come. Whether you speak with wise words or with wisecracks, you are made in the image of God. Come into God's house. Hear God's Word. Prepare to meet your Maker and your match. For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is greater than human strength.

**People:** **Some of us like certainty and structure. Some of us don't. We come by different roads, yet we are here together. We want to know God, and to be known by God. We are here to worship the Lord.**

**Leader:** Jesus said, "Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there." We are here and Christ Jesus is here. We join our hearts in worship.

### Confession

God, we call you ruler of all, but sometimes we make excuses.  
We try to avoid applying your rules to our actions and interests.  
At other times, we hold so tightly to rules that we break relationships.  
It is easier to imagine that you are like us than it is for us to be like you.  
We judge ourselves by success; you judge us by how we treat others.  
Help us to face our truth.  
Forgive us when we fail.  
Give us the courage to keep trying to live as you love.



## Words of assurance

The Lord's rules can be trusted.  
They make plain people wise.

## Between Me & You enactment (children's feature)

**Supplies:** a knit, crocheted, or woven scarf with visible stitching details, possibly handmade by a member of the congregation

### Action and noticing

- As in weeks 1 and 2, take a scarf and have a volunteer hold one end while you hold the other end so that the scarf may be stretched out between the two of you, between me and you.
- Notice what kind of scarf it is. What it is made of? Point out the pattern and the detail of individual stitches that are all connected and work together to make a scarf that is functional and beautiful.

### Wondering

- I wonder who made this scarf? I wonder how long it would take to learn how to make a scarf like this? (*If the scarf was made by someone in your congregation, you may ask them to reply.*) I'm sure glad someone knows how to pay attention to the details of how to make a scarf like this. It looks simple, but there's more to it than I thought.
- If someone gave me a ball of yarn and knitting needles, I wouldn't have a clue what to do or where to start. I would need someone to teach me, and I would probably need to use a pattern so that I would know what stitches to use to make scarf. A pattern would give me some guidelines.
- Making a scarf is like making a healthy community. We need someone to teach us a pattern. As families and as communities, we need guidelines or rules to help us know how to treat one another, especially when we're having trouble getting along (for example, when we're angry with each other, when we have different ideas of what we should do, and so on). It's worth paying attention to the details of how we live together.

- What are the rules and guidelines that we follow? How do we know what to do to be a healthy community that works together and takes care of one another?
- Not all knit scarves look the same in terms of color, length, or width, and not all follow the exact same pattern. But they all have rules and purpose and beauty. Communities are like that too.
- God offers us guidance and help to know how to treat each other in different situations so that, like the stitches of this scarf, we can all work together to create something functional and beautiful.

### Responding through song: "For Me, For You"

God's promises are for me, for you, in all that we go through.

God's love is for me, for you, in all that we go through.

## Sermon seeds

### Between

*Covenant* between God and people (Exodus 20:1-17)

*Guidelines* for healthy relationships between God and people, and between the people (Exodus 20:1-17)

- The commandments of Exodus 20 show God's people what a relationship between them and God should look like, as well as how to treat one another. Relational guidelines are necessary but have the potential to get in the way if we forget the purpose of those rules (for example, to help us respect one another rather than keep each other in line). Explore the concept of the letter of the law versus spirit of the law. This may be one way that we might seek God's will rather than rigidly apply rules.
- In Psalm 19, David delights in God's law. It is not a heavy, burdensome, challenging set of rules to maintain, but a lovely, life-giving, sweet and sure word from God. How might David's orientation toward Scripture inform your congregation's reading of Scripture and God's law?

## Benediction

You may choose to speak this benediction to one another by echoing: after the leader reads each line, the congregation repeats it.

We are people of God.  
We go in God's love  
to extend God's love  
and live God's promise.