



BRIDGING THE GAP

HEBRON YOUTH DEVOTIONS

Most of you know that I started seminary classes last Spring. I'm about to finish my first year of working towards a Master of Divinity degree. This is basically a graduate degree for pastors, but can be helpful for all kinds of ministry jobs, including my job at Hebron. It took me a long time to decide about going to seminary. I wasn't sure if it was the right decision and I wasn't sure if I could handle going back to school in my old age. But I felt God nudging me to go, so I took a step of faith.

Actually, maybe nudging isn't the right word. What I felt God asking me to do was to step out into something entirely new, not knowing what might happen next. It was like God was asking me to take a step off the end of a pier in the dark – I had no idea what it would be like when I took that step, but I trusted that God would be there. And God *has* been there - every step of the way. I have enjoyed all of my classes and I'm learning a ton about God, the Bible, ministry, and so much more.

Sometimes God will ask us to take a step of faith – to trust that God is guiding us even when we can't see what's around the corner. In fact, most of life is like that, really. You are middle and high school students with your entire futures ahead of you. You have hopes and dreams of what you want to do and what you want your life to be like, but the truth is you have no idea what's around the corner. But, what you *can* know for sure is that God is with you. God already knows your future and will be there waiting for you. I love how Psalm 139 reminds us of God's presence in our lives:

O LORD, you have examined my heart and know everything about me.
You know when I sit down or stand up. You know my thoughts even when I'm far away.
You see me when I travel and when I rest at home. You know everything I do.
You know what I am going to say even before I say it, LORD.

You go before me and follow me. You place your hand of blessing on my head.

Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too great for me to understand!

- Psalm 139:1-6

How amazing to think that God is with us in the present, God goes ahead of us into the future, and God follows after us. God's got you – on all sides – even when you aren't sure where your next steps will lead you.