

Message Summary

Big Idea: God invites us to draw near and be sheltered by a maternal love that is both compassionate and protective.

We're invited to experience:

1. God's compassion—God's deep love and desire to draw us close.
2. God's protection—God's readiness to shield and cover us from harm.

Key Scripture

"Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were not willing." Matt. 23:37 NIV

Additional Scriptures

"He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge." Psalm 91:4 NIV

Start Talking

- In the opening story, the mom was good natured about her child mistaking glue for chapstick. Have you ever been in a similar situation as parent or as you've watched over a child? How was your reaction similar or different to this mom's reaction? What do you think of her response?

Start Thinking

- Which part of the message was most impactful for you and why?
- Which word or phrase from the Key Scripture speaks to you?

Start Sharing

- How does the picture of a hen wanting to gather her chick make you feel? Is there some aspect of your life right now where you could really use God's gathering you close?
- How does the picture of a hen wanting to shelter her chick under her wing make you feel? Is there some aspect of your life where you could use God shielding and protection?
- God's wings are always stretched out to you, with an invitation to you to come under those wings. The people of Jerusalem were not willing, and that was heartbreaking to Jesus. How does this picture of Jesus lamenting for his people impact your relationship with Jesus?

Start Praying

Loving God, thank you for wanting to draw us near so that we could be sheltered by your compassionate and protective love. We choose, today, to say yes to your invitation to go under your wings. We release into your care our grief and our pain and our worries and our fears. Thank you, God, that you want to comfort us and give us peace. We come under your wings and entrust our lives to you. In Jesus' name, amen.

Start Doing

- Commit to pray daily, "Lord, I want to come under your wings of love and protection today. Help me feel sheltered in your love."
- Commit to actively receive God's compassion and protection by pursuing your relationship with Jesus through a spiritual discipline such as worship, prayer, or Bible reading.
- Start the Bible Plan *What Does It Mean to Follow Jesus*: www.go2.lc/jesus