



## EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

Session 10: The Restoration Promised  
Suggested Week of Use: November 6, 2022  
Core Passage: Hosea 14:1-9

---

### News Story Summary

Hurricane Ian, a category 4 storm that hit the west coast of Florida in September, destroyed several sections of the Sanibel Causeway. The Causeway is made up of numerous bridges that connect Sanibel Island to the Florida mainland. The damage to the highway stranded people on the island and made it impossible for those who had evacuated to return to their homes.

The damage to the causeway will take months to fully repair, but temporary repairs have already provided island access to residents, utility crews, rescue crews, and other essential personnel. The repairs required 4,000 tons of asphalt, seven cranes, four barges, 2,400 loads of rock, five boats, and 8,200 loads of fill dirt. It even required dive teams with underwater survey equipment.

For more about this story, search “Bridge to Sanibel Island repaired.”

### Focus Attention

To replace the opening activity under Focus Attention, as adults arrive, group them into several teams and give each team some marshmallows and fettuccini noodles. Direct them to create the most stable bridge possible given their supplies. Once the teams have finished their work, use a toy car (like a Matchbox®) to test the bridges.

After the activity, ask: *What are some famous bridges?* Record responses on the board or on a large sheet of paper. Ask: *What is the purpose of a bridge?* Affirm that essentially bridges make connections. Remind adults of Hurricane Ian and its vast damage. Share the story of the Sanibel Causeway and its temporary repair. (You can also find video clips of the damage and repair online.) Say: *The repair of the Sanibel Causeway is one kind of restoration. Today, we will discuss a much more important kind of restoration. Instead of connecting a mainland with an island, this one connects human beings with their Creator.*

### Summarize and Challenge

To supplement the activity under Summarize and Challenge, remind the class about the massive number of supplies and the amount of effort it took to repair the bridge to Sanibel Island. Say: *Today, we talked about the restoration of one’s relationship with God. Ask: How do people try to fix their relationship with God on their own? (Possible answers: good works, money, going to church, knowing the right people, being better than someone else, good outweighing the bad)* Say: *Unlike the Sanibel Causeway, nothing human beings attempt can restore their relationship with God. Only He can bring about that reconciliation and restoration. He chooses to reconcile us to Himself because of His deep love for us.* Use the Plan of Salvation on the inside cover of

the Personal Study Guide to briefly share how adults can begin a new relationship with God through Jesus. Let them know that you will be available to talk with anyone who has questions about restoring their relationship with God. Close in prayer, thanking God for the redemption and reconciliation only He can provide.