

Think of a few Biblical stories in which people seem to be “between a rock and a hard place”.  
(There are many.)

**Part 1**

Genesis 3:1-7 (especially verse 6) – Do you think Adam questioned whether he should take a bite or not? Did he remember God’s word to him as he thinks about Eve’s invitation to eat some of the fruit too?

Genesis 3:8-21 – Then, God comes looking...and they are caught. Instead of owning up to the disobedience, he blames Eve! Do we blame when we get caught? Do we play the victim? Do we pass the buck? Disobedience and blame have their consequences.

Genesis 6:13-18 – Did Noah like it? We’re never told — but what may be our reaction to doing something like this? Following God isn’t the easy thing. Is our first thought what would God think, or what would mankind think? Whom are we here to please?

2 Samuel 12:1-13 – The wrath of the king or the wrath of The King! Which might it be? We may be afraid of this kind of confrontation, but did you notice...it led to repentance? What a great thing!

Esther 4 – She could have remained quiet and the Jews (her people) would have died. She, after much personal distress and questioning, goes to the king. If you know the context of the story, going to the king — when uninvited — could mean that she would die.

Matthew 14:22-23 – If it is you, Lord, tell me to come out on the water to you. Really! His rock could be his own fear, or no solid ground on which to stand, etc. What about us?

Hosea 3 – Could God really be so mean, so out of line, so inconsiderate? Maybe the thought is — could God really be so forgiving?! Hosea is a type of Christ, his prostitute wife is one who has committed adultery, and the Jewish people are the ones who have committed spiritual adultery with other gods. Are we willing to do the hard thing and invite many to Christ Jesus who we think aren’t worthy? Could we have committed spiritual adultery? Do we have other gods besides the only One who is God?

Matthew 27:27-54 – Here is a passage that deserves some consideration during the Lenten season: What was the hard place for Jesus? We might ask, “which one”? Was the struggle between knowing His Father and doing what He came to do on our behalf? Was it the thorns, the spit in your face, the mocking, whipping, etc? There are many in this passage.

What are some personal “hard places” that members of your society or yourself find themselves?  
(This could even be a whole study on its own as we learn to go outside of our comfort zone and care for others in our church, maybe even in our community.)

## **Part 2**

Close in:

When you are in the midst of a struggle, where do you look? Where is your focus?

Settle in:

Is your anger justifiable when God doesn't seem to be there for you?

Collide:

Have you questioned God before? Lots of people in the Bible did. You are not alone. Don't give up because the —

Rock rescues:

Rely on God. He comes through. (You know that he has rescued us from our sin too.)

## **Part 3**

May God bless your study and reflection on God's grace — for you.