

The Well

SLOW · SMALL · SIMPLE · STILL
A CONGREGATION OF CITY DISCIPLESHIP PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

TASTE AND SEE: TRUE GRACE

February 18th, 2024

HOW WE DO WHAT WE DO

Welcome to The Well Church. In a city that defines success as Bigger! Better! Faster! More! we are a group of friends that want to practice **Slow** Church, **Small** Church, **Simple** Church, **Still** Church.

To us, these words - Slow, Small, Simple, Still - signify "rest". We believe worship should provide space for us to slow down and become like small children again, a place where we can remember the simple joys of relationship with one another and with our Father, a time for stillness before the One who created us all.

If this is your first time with us, we are glad to have you along for the ride! We know it can feel a little weird to walk into a new place, so don't worry: we will not be calling special attention to you. Feel free to follow along in this worship guide. Participate as much or as little as you would like.

So relax! Take your time to get to know us — and the God we worship.

TWO THINGS:

First: if you have a particular need you would like us to pray for, please sms/whatsapp your request to **011 7521 9450** and we will pray for it during our service. Even if you have never spoken to God before, please: don't be afraid! He is waiting to hear from you.

Second: worship will be followed by a 15 minute tea-break, and then a Q&A session. If anything you experience or hear today does not make sense, if you have any questions about the sermon or about Christianity in general, please ask! We will do our best to answer any questions you have.

Mighty to Save | GATHERING SONG

Words & Music: Ben Fielding, Reuben Morgan

Ev'ryone needs compassion
Love that's never failing
Let mercy fall on me
Ev'ryone needs forgiveness
The kindness of a Saviour
The hope of nations

[Chorus]

Saviour He can move the mountains
My God is mighty to save
He is mighty to save
Forever Author of salvation
He rose and conquered the grave
Jesus conquered the grave

So take me as You find me
All my fears and failures
Fill my life again
I give my life to follow
Ev'rything I believe in
Now I surrender

[Chorus]

CALL TO WORSHIP

Ephesians 1:2-6

[2] Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

[3] Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places,

[4] even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world,
that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love

[5] he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ,
according to the purpose of his will,

[6] to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved.

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ!

**SLOW CHURCH?
SMALL CHURCH?
SIMPLE CHURCH?
STILL CHURCH?**

What does it even mean?

Well, in a pleasantly post-modern way, right back achya: what do these words mean to you? Is slow a good thing or a bad thing? What about small? What if "Simple Church" means "church for the simple-minded"? Are you in, or are you thinking maybe don't want to be associated with that? After all, what would people think!

To us, these words **Slow**, **Small**, **Simple** and **Still** represent our commitment to take our time, to ignore our world's definitions of success, to focus on relationships and all the basic things that really make life worth living, and to stay connected with those who have walked this road ahead of us. We don't want to leave people behind just because they can't keep up; we don't want to grow so big we lose track of each other's names; we don't want to get lost in the frantic; we don't want to reinvent the wheel.

Come Praise and Glorify | WORSHIP IN SONG

Words: Tim Chester Music: Bob Kauflin ©2011 Sovereign Grace Praise

**Come praise and glorify our God, the Father of our Lord
In Christ He has in heav'nly realms His blessings on us poured
For pure and blameless in His sight He destined us to be
And now we've been adopted through His Son eternally**

[Chorus]

**To the praise of Your glory
To the praise of Your mercy and grace
To the praise of Your glory
You are the God who saves**

**Come praise and glorify our God who gives his grace in Christ
In Him our sins are washed away, redeemed through sacrifice
In Him God has made known to us the myst'ry of His will
That Christ should be the head of all, His purpose to fulfil**

[Chorus]

**Come praise and glorify our God for we've believed the Word
And through our faith we have a seal, the Spirit of the Lord
The Spirit guarantees our hope until redemption's done
Until we join in endless praise to God, the Three-in-One**

[Chorus]

How Great Thou Art | WORSHIP IN SONG

Words: Carl Gustav Boberg (1886) Music: trad. Swedish folk-tune

**O Lord my God! When I in awesome wonder
Consider all the worlds thy hands have made
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder
Thy power throughout the universe displayed**

Bila kulihat bintang gemerlapan dan bunyi guruh riuh kudengar, Ya Tuhanku, tak putus aku heran melihat ciptaanmu yang besar.

[Chorus]

**Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee
How great thou art, how great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God to thee
How great thou art, how great thou art!**

[Reff]

Maka jiwakupun memujimu: "Sungguh besar kau, Allahku!"
Maka jiwakupun memujimu: "Sungguh besar kau, Allahku!"

**And when I think that God, His son not sparing
Send Him to die, I scarce can take it in
That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing
He bled and died to take away my sin**

Ya Tuhanku, 'pabila kurenungkan pemberianmu dalam Penebus, 'ku tertegun: bagiku dicurahkan oleh Putramu darahnya kudus.

[Chorus]

[Reff]

**When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart
Then I shall bow in humble adoration
And there proclaim, my God, how great thou art!**

'Pabila nanti Kristus memanggilku, sukacitaku amatlah besar, kar'na terkabullah yang kurindukan: melihat dikau, Tuhanku akbar.

[Chorus]

[Reff]

Q29. How are we made partakers of the redemption purchased by Christ?

We are made partakers of the redemption purchased by Christ, by the effectual application of it to us by his Holy Spirit.

Q30. How doth the Spirit apply to us the redemption purchased by Christ?

The Spirit applieth to us the redemption purchased by Christ, by working faith in us, and thereby uniting us to Christ in our effectual calling.

Q31. What is effectual calling?

Effectual calling is the work of God's Spirit, whereby, convincing us of our sin and misery, enlightening our minds in the knowledge of Christ, and renewing our wills, he doth persuade and enable us to embrace Jesus Christ, freely offered to us in the gospel.

Jesus Cast A Look On Me | WORSHIP IN SONG

Words: John Berridge Music: Matthew Perryman Jones ©MPJ Music

**Jesus cast a look on me
Give me sweet simplicity
Make me poor and keep me low
Seeking only Thee to know**

**All that feeds my busy pride
Cast it evermore aside
Bid my will to Thine submit
Lay me humbly at Thy feet**

**Make me like a little child
Of my strength and wisdom spoiled
Seeing only in Thy light
Walking only in Thy might**

**Leaning on Thy loving breast
Where a weary soul can rest
Feeling well the peace of God
Flowing from his precious blood**

**In this posture let me live
And hosannas daily give
In this temper let me die
And hosannas ever cry!**

**Jesus cast a look on me
Give me sweet simplicity
Make me poor and keep me low
Seeking only Thee to know**

TO THE PARENTS OF SMALL CHILDREN, MAY WE SUGGEST:

RELAX! God put the wiggle in children; don't feel you have to suppress it in God's House!

Sit toward the front, where it is easier for your little ones to see and hear what is going on. They get bored looking at the backs of other peoples' heads. Wouldn't you?

Quietly explain the different parts of the service. Sing the songs, voice the prayers, read the responses. Children learn to worship by copying you.

If your child becomes noisy or disruptive and you feel you need to take them outside, that is okay! Just remember to come back. As Jesus once said, "let the little children come to me!"

TO EVERYONE ELSE, MAY WE SUGGEST:

RELAX! The presence of children is a gift to our church, and they are a reminder that we all need to grow in various ways!

Please welcome our children, and give their parents a smile of encouragement, *especially* when it looks like someone under their care is having a tough time sitting still. The bible says that Jesus loved us and died for us even while we were still being deliberately, rebelliously naughty (Colossians 1:21-22). The least we can do is show a little kindness to those children who are having the same struggle.

Remember that the way we welcome children directly affects the way they respond to worship, to God, and to one another. Please let them know that they are welcome (wiggles and all) in this house of worship!

WHY CONFESS SINS?

Adam and Eve were created to live in a garden with their Father God, but Adam's sin made them orphans, separated from the Father who loved them. Because of Adam, we were all born into an orphanage, where we learned that survival means fighting and stealing from others.

Those old habits are hard to break. Even after being adopted as God's kids, we continue to sin, frequently looking out for our own interests instead of the interests of others.

At this point in our worship, we have an opportunity to remember where we have come from. We take this opportunity to be honest with ourselves and with our Father, admitting that we are not yet completely well-behaved children.

WHAT DOES TRUE FORGIVENESS MEAN?

On the day God exiled Adam and Eve from the garden, he promised that one day he would send a Saviour — one of Eve's own sons — to find and rescue his orphans. Jesus was that son.

When Jesus came, he deliberately gave up the glory of being God and became like us. He suffered in every way as an orphan does, but without turning to selfishness or bitterness.

And in the end, when he was betrayed and killed, and then brought back to life on the third day, he called this process his "baptism" — his chance to prove once and for all that he was telling the truth: that even sin and death can no longer separate God's children from their Father's love.

It is through believing Jesus' promise of forgiveness that we are adopted and restored to God's family.

WORSHIP THROUGH CONFESSION

congregation sits down and reads the bold print aloud

Come, let us ask the mercy of God:

O Lord, you have mercy upon all who come humbly to your throne of grace—take away from me my sins, and mercifully kindle in me the fire of your Holy Spirit. Take away from me the heart of stone, which is my unbelief and my complacency, and give me a heart of flesh, a heart to love and adore you, a heart to delight in you, to follow and to enjoy you, for Christ's sake. Amen.

(Take this moment to confess your sins to God in silent prayer)

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Jesus, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

PROMISE OF FORGIVENESS

congregation listens while the minister reads

Ephesians 2:4-7

[4] But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us,
[5] even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—
by grace you have been saved—
[6] and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,
[7] so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace
in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

Our gracious God forgives you your sin, strengthens you by the Spirit,
and will keep you in life eternal, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

O Praise the Name | SONG OF PRAISE

Words & Music: Dean Ussher, Marty Sampson, Benjamin Hastings ©2015 Hillsong Music Publishing

**I cast my mind to calvary
Where Jesus bled and died for me
I see his wounds, his hands, his feet
My savior on that cursed tree**

Ku tertuju ke kalvari
Yesus mengorbankan diri
Tangan, kakinya terluka
Peny'lamatku disalibkan

**His body bound and drenched in tears
They laid him down in Joseph's tomb
The entrance sealed by heavy stone
Messiah still and all alone**

Basah tangisan tubuh-Nya
Berbaring di ruang kubur
Tertutup batu gerbangnya
Sang Mesias pun menunggu

**[Chorus]
O praise the name of the Lord our God
O praise his name forever more
For endless days we will sing your praise
Oh Lord, oh Lord our God**

[Reff]
O Marilah puji nama-Nya
O puji Dia selamanya
Sampai masa akhir hayatku
'Ku puji kau Tuhan

**Then on the third at break of dawn
The son of heaven rose again
O trampled death, where is your sting?
The angels roar for Christ the King**

Di waktu fajar ke tiga
Sang Putra Sorga pun bangkit
Mana sengatmu hai maut?
Tinggi-tinggilah Sang Raja

[Chorus]

[Reff]

**He shall return in robes of white
The blazing sun shall pierce the night
And I will rise among the saints
My gaze transfixed on Jesus' face**

Dia 'kan kembali lagi
Gelap tertusuk mentari
Aku telah dikuduskan
Bangkit dan memandang Yesus

**[Chorus]
O praise the name of the Lord our God
O praise his name forever more
For endless days we will sing your praise
Oh Lord, oh Lord our God**

[Reff]
O Marilah puji nama-Nya
O puji Dia selamanya
Sampai masa akhir hayatku
'Ku puji kau Tuhan

Speak O Lord | SONG OF PREPARATION

Words & Music: Keith Getty & Stuart Townend ©2005 ThankYou Music

**Speak, O Lord, as we come to you
To receive the food of your Holy Word.
Take your truth, plant it deep in us;
Shape and fashion us in your likeness,
That the light of Christ might be seen today
In our acts of love and our deeds of faith.
Speak, O Lord, and fulfill in us
All your purposes for your glory.**

**Teach us, Lord, full obedience,
Holy reverence, true humility;
Test our thoughts and our attitudes
In the radiance of your purity.
Cause our faith to rise; cause our eyes to see
Your majestic love and authority.
Words of pow'r that can never fail—
Let their truth prevail over unbelief.**

**Speak, O Lord, and renew our minds;
Help us grasp the heights of your plans for us—
Truths unchanged from the dawn of time
That will echo down through eternity.
And by grace we'll stand on your promises,
And by faith we'll walk as you walk with us.
Speak, O Lord, till your church is built
And the earth is filled with your glory.**

GIVING

Generosity is one of the marks of being in true community. At one point, the bible asks, "if anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him?" (1John3:17)

The tithes is an act of worship commanded by God. Traditionally, Christians give at least 1/10th of their income to their home church for the support of their pastors, for those within the congregation who are in need, and for the care of orphans, widows, and refugees.

This part of our worship is especially for those who call CDPCCKL their church home. Visitors, please, keep your cash! Spend it on dinner with your family.

PASTORAL PRAYER

As a church centred on the throne of Jesus Christ, every week we approach that throne boldly to ask our God for help with the daily cares of life. We speak up like children, and we go away having drunk our fill. As one of our shepherds prays for our requests, for our church, for our city and for the rulers of our nation, join with him. Add to this prayer your own cares and troubles - and your joys as well.

GIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

ONLINE GIVING

make your tithes & offering online

Name: City Discipleship
Presbyterian Church
Bank: Hong Leong Bank
Account No: 045-000-47806
Remarks: Please indicate "KL Tithe"
or "KL Offering"

PASTORAL PRAYER

congregation reads the bold print

Minister: And now, as our Saviour has taught us,
let us pray together:

**Our Father who is in heaven, holy is your name. May your kingdom come,
may your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

And forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

**For yours is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory forever and ever.**

Amen

[35] Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst. [36] But I said to you that you have seen me and yet do not believe.

[37] All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out.

[38] For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me.

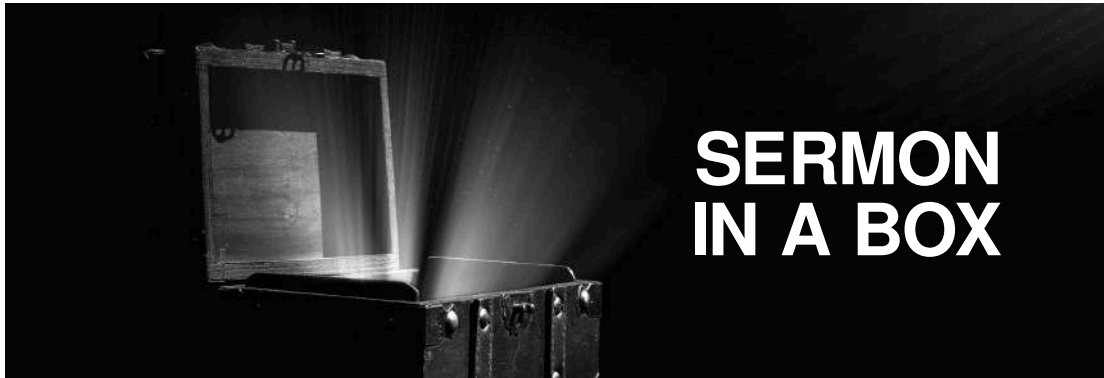
[39] And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. [40] For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day."

[41] So the Jews grumbled about him, because he said, "I am the bread that came down from heaven."

[42] They said, "Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How does he now say, 'I have come down from heaven'?" [43] Jesus answered them, "Do not grumble among yourselves. [44] No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day. [45] It is written in the Prophets, 'And they will all be taught by God.' Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me— [46] not that anyone has seen the Father except he who is from God; he has seen the Father.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!



WHY SUCH ANCIENT LITERATURE?

We may be a Slow Church, a Small Church, a Simple Church — but we are **Still a church**. We aren't trying to do anything new. Actually, we're trying to avoid doing something new! We are wanting to tap into ideas deeper, greater, wiser than ourselves, the same ideas that have shaped the People of God for over a thousand generations.

There are certain aspects of our worship we have to update, things like language, music, location, everything we need to understand and connect with what is going on. But as Marshall McLuhan warned us, "the medium is the message": every time we make even a small change in how we express these ideas, we run the risk of changing the deeper message — the message that makes us who we are.

The best way to make sure we aren't changing the subject is to go back to the source: these ancient texts; and to read them much as they have been read for millenia.

Of course, many things have changed since these documents were first written and compiled! That is why we have a sermon: so a man called by God to study the cultures, conditions, and theologies of those times can help us connect more deeply with what has been written.

Sounds pretty hard, right? But actually, making that connection is not as difficult as you might think. That's because human nature really hasn't changed all that much in the last four thousand years. So if you have experienced adultery, betrayal, theft, envy, joy, generosity, passion, love, and a sense that there just has to be more to life than this! — then we think you'll find this ancient literature just as relevant to you as it was to its original readers.

Isn't preaching a little old-fashioned?
After all, no one these days can pay attention for longer than 20 minutes at a time anyway. That's why really hip, cool churches use drama, video, and other media to communicate, you know!

Yeah, we've heard that. Still, there are two main reasons why we've decided to keep preaching at the center of our worship:

First, we believe a sermon is not simply a lecture, an information download. Rather, it is a continuing story, read to us by our Father.

Through the preaching of God's Word, we enter into the lives of his children who have lived his story before us; through listening, we become part of it, and it becomes a part of us. So while it is true that attention spans are getting shorter, making it harder for us to remember details, we have faith that no one ever has trouble remembering the plot of a great story! — especially one they are part of.

Second, scripture itself tells us that preaching his Word is the best way to introduce people to God, and the best way to connect our small church to the rest of God's People.

Of course, in ancient times preaching was the only way ordinary people could interact with God's Word. Books were very rare and expensive, and few people could read. But things are very different today. So why do we still insist on preaching? Why can't each person simply read God's Word for themselves and then just move on to lunch?

Well, actually we do want everyone to read God's Word for themselves, in whatever language makes most sense to them! Still, recent advances in neuroscience confirm the bible's claim that preaching has a different effect on us than simply reading (or watching a drama):

"Erica Michael and Marcel Just of Carnegie Mellon University did a brain scan study to test whether the medium is indeed the message. They showed that different brain areas are involved in hearing speech and reading it, and different comprehension centers in hearing words and reading them... This finding refutes the conventional theory of comprehension, which argues that a single center in the brain understands words, and it doesn't really matter how (by what sense or medium) information enters the brain, because it will be processed in the same way and place. Michael and Just's experiment shows that each medium creates a different sensory and semantic experience - and, we might add, develops different circuits in the brain." - from [The Brain That Changes Itself](#), by Norman Doidge, M.D.

So there you have it: preaching affects your brain differently from reading! — and it could also change your life.

Teaching About Salvation:

1. The Nature of Faith

2. The Nature of Grace

3. The Nature of God's Plan

He Will Hold Me Fast | SONG OF RESPONSE

Words & Music: Ada Ruth Habershon, Matthew Merker
©2013 Matthew Merker Music, Getty Music Publishing

When I fear my faith will fail, Christ will hold me fast
When the tempter would prevail, He will hold me fast
I could never keep my hold through life's fearful path
For my love is often cold, He must hold me fast

[Chorus]

He will hold me fast
He will hold me fast
For my Savior loves me so
He will hold me fast

Those he saves are his delight, Christ will hold me fast
Precious in his holy sight, he will hold me fast
He'll not let my soul be lost, his promises shall last
Bought by him at such a cost, he will hold me fast

[Chorus]

He will hold me fast
He will hold me fast
For my Savior loves me so
He will hold me fast

For my life he bled and died, Christ will hold me fast
Justice has been satisfied, he will hold me fast
Raised with him to endless life, he will hold me fast
'Till our faith is turned to sigh, when he comes at last!

[Chorus]

He will hold me fast
He will hold me fast
For my Savior loves me so
He will hold me fast

BENEDICTION

Ephesians 6:23-24

[23] Peace be to the brothers, and love with faith,
from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

[24] Grace be with all who love our Lord Jesus Christ with love incorruptible.

And all God's people said: **Amen!**



BLESSING

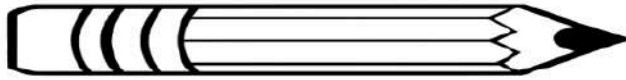
The benediction (meaning "Words of Blessing") is the close of our corporate conversation with God.

It is not actually a prayer **to** God, but actually a blessing **from** God.

Traditionally, people will turn their faces toward heaven, and will often extend open hands, palms up, in a posture of receiving.

Sermon Notes FOR KIDS

Date: _____



As you attend church services with your family, use this sheet to help you pay attention and learn. We want you to worship with us by singing to God and listening to the message.



who is speaking?



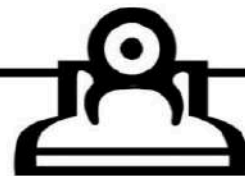
words you heard but don't know...

What is the main passage we are reading today?

Book:

Chapter:

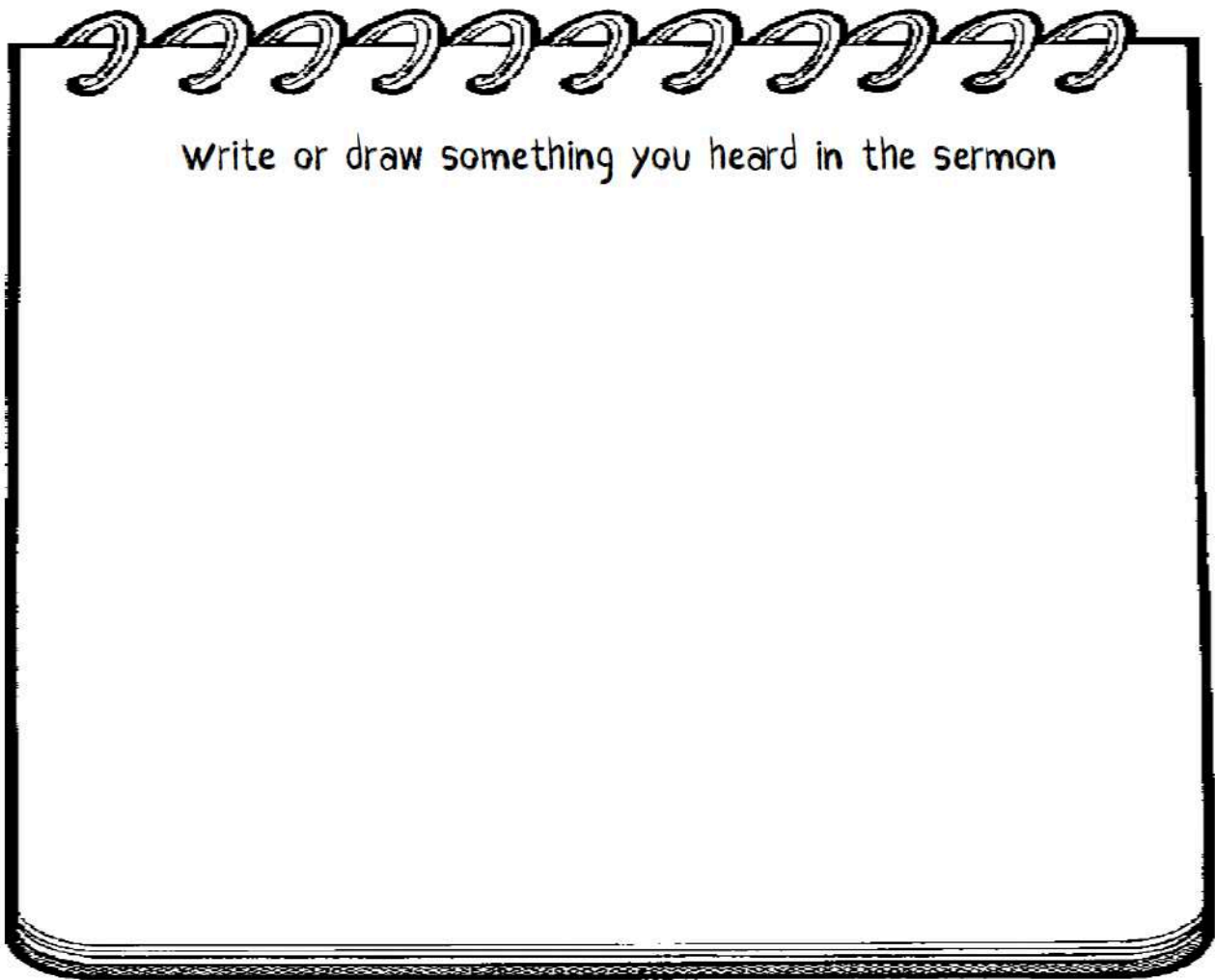
Verse:



What are we learning about God from this passage?



Favorite song today was:



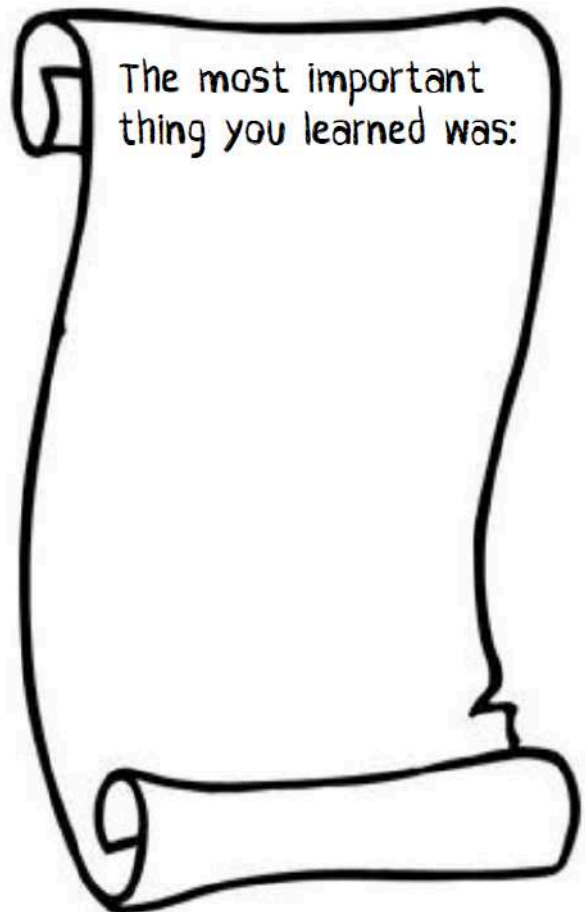
Write or draw something you heard in the sermon



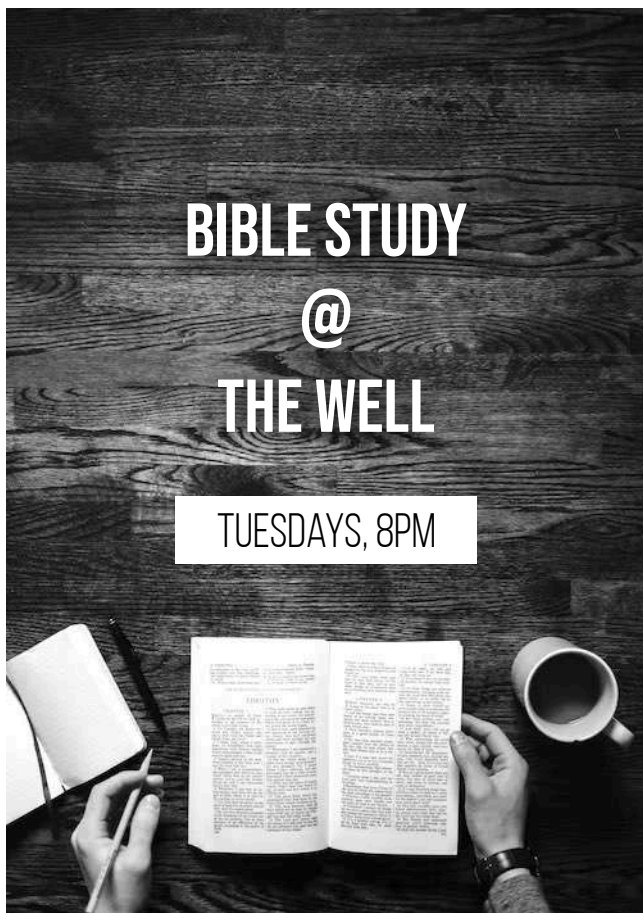
Questions?



How does today's message apply to your life?



The most important thing you learned was:



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