

The Well

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

LEADERS IN THE CHURCH: AUTHORITY

April 21st, 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.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Ephesians 1:20-22

God worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. And God the Father put all things under God the Son's feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

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

The King of Glory | WORSHIP IN SONG

Words & Music: Keith & Kristyn Getty, Chris Tomlin ©2016 Getty Music Publishing

**The King of Glory reigns over all the world
His mighty hand sustains the heavens and the earth.
Who may come to him and seek his holy face?**

**He calls the pure in heart, all whose hands are clean
And those who love his name above all other things
Humbly I will bow and Jesus' name confess**

**[Chorus]
He reigns, he reigns
Jesus the Lord
He reigns, he reigns
Forevermore**

**Swing wide you ancient gates, let the King come in
His glory never fades, our hearts delight in him
Every knee will bow, every tongue confess**

**[Chorus]
Who is this King of glory
The Lord strong and mighty
He bore the cross of shame
Sing Hosanna
Who is this King of glory
The Lord strong and mighty
He rose up from the grave
Sing Hosanna**

[Chorus]

**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.

I Sing the Mighty Power of God | WORSHIP IN SONG

Words: Isaac Watts (1715) Music: Ralph Williams (1907)

**I sing the mighty power of God,
That made the mountains rise,
That spread the flowing seas abroad,
And built the lofty skies.
I sing the wisdom that ordained
The sun to rule the day;
The moon shines full at his command,
And all the stars obey.**

**I sing the goodness of the Lord,
Who filled the earth with food,
Who formed the creatures through his Word,
And then pronounced them good.
Lord, how thy wonders are displayed,
Wherever I turn my eye,
If I survey the ground I tread,
Or gaze upon the sky.**

**There's not a plant or flower below,
But makes thy glories known,
And clouds arise, and tempests blow,
By order from thy throne;
While all that borrows life from thee
Is ever in thy care;
And everywhere that man can be,
Thou, God art present there.**

Kupuji kuasa Tuhanku,
Pencipta semesta:
Lautan, langit, gunungpun
Diatur oleh-nya.
Kupuji kebajikan-nya,
Lengkaplah dunia
Diisi oleh firman-nya,
Dan baik semuanya.

Ya Tuhan, s'luruh dunia
Berisi karya-mu;
Di mana-mana tertera
Buatan tangan-mu!
Kembang yang indah di kebun
Cerminan hikmat-mu;
Oleh-mu langitpun mendung
Dan topan menderu.

Seluruh makhluk diberi
Asuhan kasih-nya;
Ke manapun kita pergi,
Tuhan di situlah!
Tangan-nyalah pengawalku
Dan 'ku dibimbing-nya;
Tiada jalan kutempuh
Di luar kasih-nya.

Who is the head of the Church?

The universal church, which is invisible, consists of all the elect who have been, are, and shall be gathered into one, under Christ its head. This church is his bride, his body, and the fullness of him who fills all in and all.

What has Christ given to His church to persevere in this world?

To this universal church, visible church Christ has given the ministry, oracles, and ordinances of God for the gathering and perfecting of the saints, in this life, to the end of the age. For this purpose he makes these means effectual by his own presence through the Spirit, according to His promise.

King of Love | WORSHIP IN SONG

Words & Music: Adam Palmer, Jonathan Smith, Matthew Hein, Stephanie Kulla, Stuart Garrard
©2013 I Am "They" Publishing

**The King of Love my Shepherd is
Whose goodness faileth never
I nothing lack if I am His
And He is mine forever
And He is mine forever**

**Where streams of living water flow
My ransomed soul He leadeth
And where the verdant pastures grow
With food celestial feedeth**

**[Chorus]
Never failing, Ruler of my heart
Everlasting, Lover of my soul
On the mountain high or in the valley low
The King of Love my Shepherd is
The King of Love my Shepherd is**

**In death's dark veil I fear no ill
With Thee, dear Lord, beside me
Thy rod and staff my comfort still
Thy cross before to guide me**

[Chorus]

**So through all the length of days
Thy goodness faileth never
Good Shepherd, may I sing Your praise
Within Your house forever
Within Your house forever**

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 CONFESSION?

During this part of our conversation with our Father, we have this opportunity to face this painful truth:

The line between good and evil does not run through “us” vs. “them”, but through each person. No one is simply a victim: we are also all victimizers. Even though we long for a world without abuse, slavery or tyranny, each one of us also actively participates in abuse, in slavery, in the tyrannies of this world. We have all failed to live up to the hope offered to mankind in the 10 Commandments.

We realize that this is a strange, counter-cultural idea in our modern world. If this is your first time to think about this, take this time to pray and ask God to reveal to you how you may have hurt those around you. Ask him to give you a spirit of regret and repentance for those things.

WHAT DOES TRUE FORGIVENESS MEAN?

Forgiveness does not mean that God simply waves his hand and pretends nothing happened. That would be a terrible injustice, leaving abused and abusers alike without resolution!

Forgiveness means that God has taken what we did wrong and made it right. Everything that we owe to those we have hurt will be repaid; everything that has been stolen from us will be restored.

How does this happen? We don’t know exactly how it works, but somehow when Jesus, the God-Man, died on a Roman cross two thousand years ago, he atoned (payed the debt) for all our sins, and rescued us from slavery to the powers of fear and death.

For Christians, accepting our Father’s forgiveness is an act of faith. This is because we do not always see clearly in this life how everything we have lost or stolen is being restored. We have only the words of his promise that it is true even now, and that one day we will see it clearly.

WORSHIP THROUGH CONFESSION

congregation sits down and reads the bold print aloud

Come, let us ask the mercy of God:

**Lord, you are our Father and we are your sons and daughters;
you are are Creator, and we are the work of your hands;
you are our Shepherd, we are your flock;
you are our Redeemer, we are the people that you have purchased;
Therefore, remember your mercy as you discipline your people;
We wander from the flock, seeking to live independently;
We reject that you have created us, thinking we are eternity;
We devise plans to save ourselves.
We acknowledge our folly.
Have mercy on us, Lord, by your grace in Christ alone through faith alone. 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

Isaiah 43:4-7

[4] Because you are precious in my eyes, and honored, and I love you,
I give men in return for you, peoples in exchange for your life.
[5] Fear not, for I am with you;
I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you.
[6] I will say to the north, Give up, and to the south,
Do not withhold; bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the end of the earth,
[7] everyone who is called by my name,
whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.

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

Ancient of Days | SONG OF PRAISE

Words & Music: Jonny Robinson, Rich Thompson, Michael Farren, Jesse Reeves @2018 CityAlight Music

**Though the nations rage, kingdoms rise and fall
There is still one king reigning over all
So I will not fear for this truth remains
That my God, He is the Ancient of Days**

**[Chorus]
None above him none before him
All of time in his hands
For his throne it shall remain and ever stand
All the power all the glory
I will trust in his name
For my God, He is the Ancient of Days**

Though the dread of night overwhelms my soul
He is here with me I am not alone
O his love is sure and he knows my name
For my God, He is the Ancient of Days

[Chorus]

None above him none before him
All of time in his hands
For his throne it shall remain and ever stand
All the power all the glory
I will trust in his name
For my God, He is the Ancient of Days

Though I may not see what the future brings
I will watch and wait for the savior king
Then my joy complete standing face to face
In the presence of the Ancient of Days

[Chorus]

The Church's One Foundation | SONG OF PREPARATION

Words: Samuel J. Ston (1866) Music: Samuel S. Wesley (1864)

The Church's one foundation	Batu Penjuru G'reja
Is Jesus Christ her Lord;	Dan dasar yang esa,
She is his new creation	Ya itu Yesus Kristus,
By water and the word:	Pendiri umatnya.
From heav'n he came and sought her	Dengan kurban darahnya
To be his holy bride;	Gereja detebus;
With his own blood he bought her,	Baptisan dan firmanya
And for her life he died.	Membuatnya kudus.

Elect from ev'ry nation,	Terpanggil dari bangsa
Yet one o'er all the earth,	Seluruh dunia,
Her charter of salvation,	Manunggallah Gereja
One Lord, one faith, one birth;	Ber-Tuhan Yang Esa.
One holy name she blesses,	Aneka kurnianya,
Partakes one holy food,	Esa batisannya,
And to one hope she presses,	Esa perjamuannya,
With ev'ry grace endued.	Esa harapannya.

'Mid toil and tribulation,	Di dalam pencobaan
And tumult of her war,	Dan perjuangannya
She waits the consummation	Dinantikannya zaman
Of peace for evermore;	Sejahtera baka.
Till, with vision glorious,	Di mata tercerminkan
Her longing eyes are blest,	Gereja yang menang
And the great Church victorious	Mencapai perhentian
Shall be the Church at rest.	Sentosa cemerlang.

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?" (1 John 3:17)

The tithe 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 The Well Church 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

[1] So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed: [2] shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; [3] not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock. [4] And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory. [5] Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”

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.

How Godly Authority Protects, Provides and Promotes Believers to Flourish

1. Why we struggle with authority?

2. What is godly authority?

3. How is this possible?

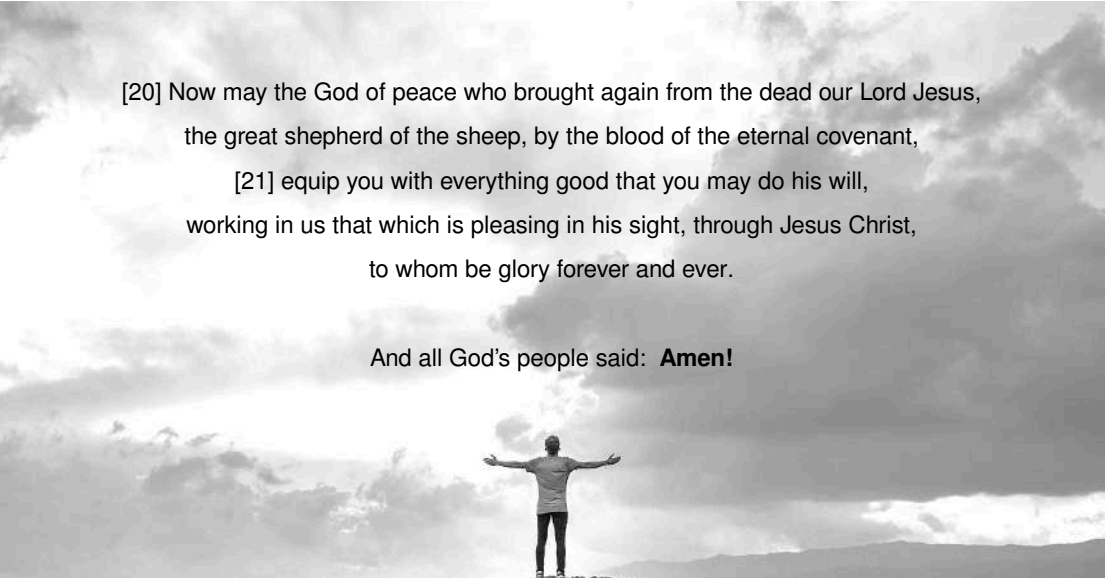
The Church's One Foundation | SONG OF RESPONSE

Words: Samuel J. Ston (1866) Music: Samuel S. Wesley (1864)

The Church's one foundation	Batu Penjuru G'reja
Is Jesus Christ her Lord;	Dan dasar yang esa,
She is his new creation	Ya itu Yesus Kristus,
By water and the word:	Pendiri umatnya.
From heav'n he came and sought her	Dengan kurban darahnya
To be his holy bride;	Gereja detebus;
With his own blood he bought her,	Baptisan dan firmanya
And for her life he died.	Membuatnya kudus.
'Mid toil and tribulation,	Di dalam pencobaan
And tumult of her war,	Dan perjuangannya
She waits the consummation	Dinantikannya zaman
Of peace for evermore;	Sejahtera baka.
Till, with vision glorious,	Di mata tercerminkan
Her longing eyes are blest,	Gereja yang menang
And the great Church victorious	Mencapai perhentian
Shall be the Church at rest.	Sentosa cemerlang.
Yet she on earth hath union	Gereja yang di sorga
With God the Three in One,	dan yang di dunia
And mystic sweet communion	bersatu dalam Tuhan,
with those whose rest is won:	Ketiga Yang Esa.
O happy ones and holy!	Ya Tuhan, b'ri anug'rah,
Lord, give us grace that we,	Supaya kami pun
Like them, the meek and lowly,	Enkau tempatkan juga
On high may dwell with thee.	Kekal de rumahmu.

BENEDICTION

Hebrews 13:20-21



[20] Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus,
the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant,
[21] equip you with everything good that you may do his will,
working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ,
to whom be glory forever and ever.

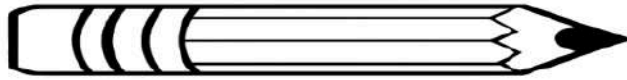
And all God's people said: **Amen!**

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



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.

Date: _____



who is speaking?



words you heard but don't know...

what is the main passage we are reading today?

Book:

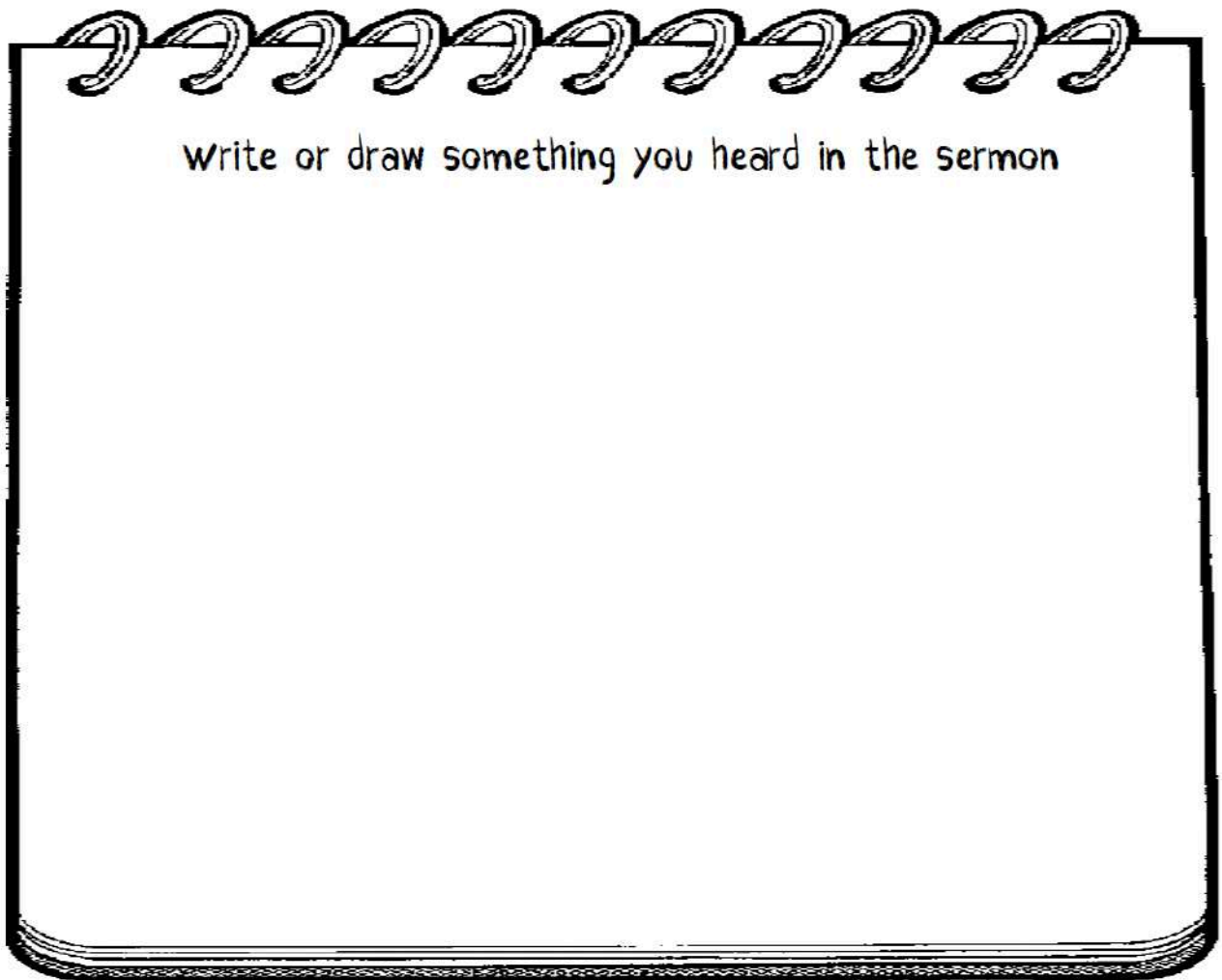
Chapter:

Verse:



Favorite song today was:

what are we learning about God from this passage?



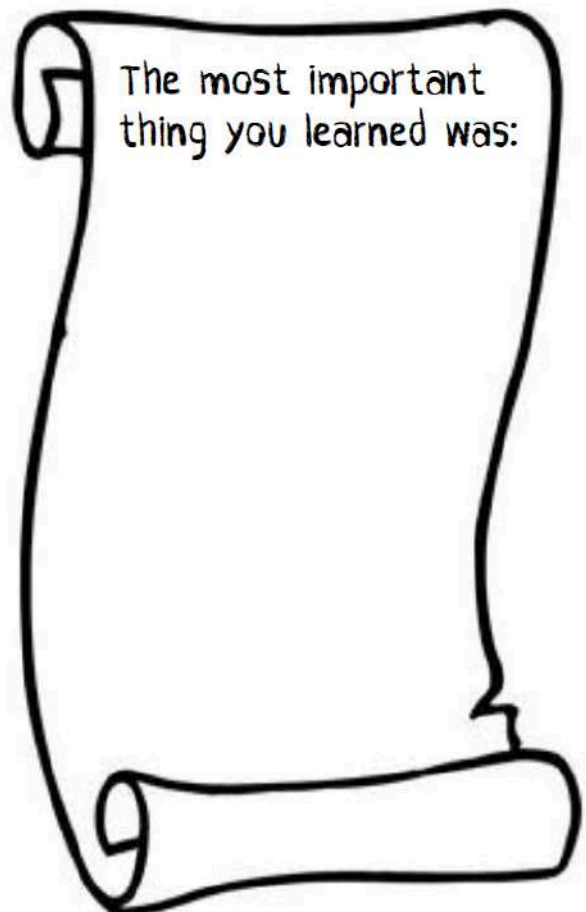
Write or draw something you heard in the sermon



Questions?

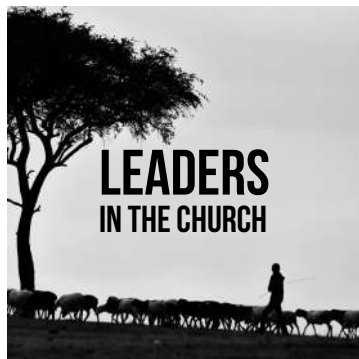


How does today's message apply to your life?



The most important thing you learned was:

UPCOMING EVENTS



NEW SERIES

14th & 21st April, 3pm

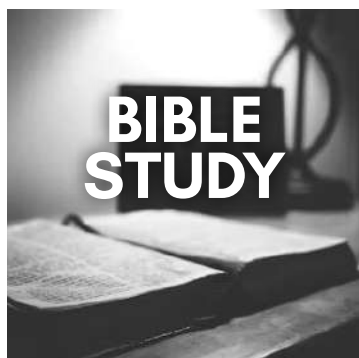
Essential to every healthy church is a biblical model of leadership. Church leadership is built around a team of elders and deacons working together under the Lord Jesus, in Word and deed, seeking to serve the church and the city. This two-part series aims to equip us in our understanding of church leadership and prepare us for the future ahead.



BAPTISM & MEMBERSHIP CLASS

21st, 27th, 28th April

Interested to know who we are or becoming a member of The Well Church? Contact Ps. Brian @ 011 7521 9450 for more information.



BIBLE STUDY TAKING A BREAK

Our weekly Bible Study is taking a 2 week break and will resume on April 30th, 2024



CHURCH RETREAT: A STORY OF FRIENDSHIP

5th - 7th July, 2024 | Forest Lodge @ Radiant Retreats, Janda Baik

RM300 per person (Price covers room, meals and activities)

* Financial assistance is available (if needed)

Guest Speaker: Ian Chris Brubaker

Scan the QR Code to Register



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