

# The Well

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

TASTE AND SEE: FREEDOM

May 5th, 2024

## WHAT WE DO

Welcome to The Well Church.

Some of you are probably wondering what we are doing here, so let's answer that question first:

We like to say that we are a well-digging church. Our job is to help provide water for thirsty travellers.

For us, our well is the Christian Bible, and this well is where we find the living water, Jesus Christ himself, the living Son of God.

Every week we want to "dig in" to the Bible, and let the living water we find there become a source of healing, refreshment, and community for us all. We do this by praying together, singing together, reading together, by listening to our Father's voice, and then sharing what we have heard with one another.

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.

## 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

Romans 12:1-2

[1] I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

[2] Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

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

## O For a Thousand Tongues | WORSHIP IN SONG

Words: Charles Wesley (1739) Music: Carl Glaser (1828)

**O, for a thousand tongues to sing  
My great Redeemer's praise  
The glories of my God and King  
The triumphs of his grace  
My gracious Master and my God  
Assist me to proclaim  
To spread through all the earth abroad  
The honors of thy name**

**Jesus, the name that charms our fears  
That bids our sorrows cease  
'Tis music in the sinner's ears  
'Tis life and health and peace  
He breaks the power of cancelled sin  
He sets the prisoners free  
His blood can make the foulest clean  
His blood availed for me**

**He speaks and listening to his voice  
New life the dead receive  
The mournful broken hearts rejoice  
The humble poor believe  
Glory to God and praise and love  
Be ever, ever giv'n  
By saints below and saints above  
The church in earth and heav'n**

Beribu lidah patutlah  
Memuji Tuhanku.  
Danewartakan kuasanya  
Dengan kidung merdu.  
Tolonglah aku, ya Tuhan,  
Mengangkat suaraku.  
'Kan kusebar di dunia  
Agungnya namamu.

Yesus, namamu cukuplah  
Menghibur yang sedih,  
Membuat hati tenteram,  
Merawat yang pedih.  
Dosa betapapun besar  
Dibasuh darahnya.  
Kuasa Iblis pun lenyap  
Lepas tawanannya.

Yang bisu-tuli, soraklah  
Memuji Tabibmu;  
Yang buta, lumpuh dan lemah,  
Berbangkitlah sembuh!

**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.

**By Faith | WORSHIP IN SONG**

Words & Music: Keith & Kristyn Getty, Stuart Townend ©2009 Getty Music Publishing

**By faith, we see the hand of God  
In the light of creation's grand design  
In the lives of those who prove His faithfulness  
Who walk by faith and not by sight**

**By faith, our fathers roamed the earth  
With the power of His promise in their hearts  
Of a holy city built by God's own hand  
A place where peace and justice reign**

**[Chorus]**

**We will stand as children of the promise  
We will fix our eyes on Him, our soul's reward  
Till the race is finished and the work is done  
We'll walk by faith and not by sight**

**By faith, the prophets saw a day  
When the longed-for Messiah would appear  
With the power to break the chains of sin and death  
And rise triumphant from the grave**

**By faith, the church was called to go  
In the power of the Spirit to the lost  
To deliver captives and to preach good news  
in every corner of the earth**

**[Chorus]**

**We will stand as children of the promise  
We will fix our eyes on Him, our soul's reward  
Till the race is finished and the work is done  
We'll walk by faith and not by sight**

**By faith, this mountain shall be moved  
And the power of the gospel shall prevail  
For we know in Christ all things are possible  
For all who call upon His name**

**[Chorus]**

**We will stand as children of the promise  
We will fix our eyes on Him, our soul's reward  
Till the race is finished and the work is done  
We'll walk by faith and not by sight**

Leader: How does God justify us, by works or by faith? It is Faith.

**People: What then shall we say was gained by Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness."**

Leader: But does God accept the ungodly by faith as well? Yes, He does!

**People: And to the one who does not work but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness, just as David also speaks of the blessing of the one to whom God counts righteousness apart from works: "Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered; blessed is the man against whom the Lord will not count his sin."**

### Jesus, I Come | WORSHIP IN SONG

Words: William Sleeper Music: Greg Thompson ©2000 Greg Thompson

Out of my bondage, sorrow and night  
Jesus I come, Jesus I come  
Into Thy freedom, gladness and light  
Jesus, I come to Thee  
Out of my sickness into Thy health  
Out of my wanting and into Thy wealth  
Out of my sin and into Thyself  
Jesus, I come to Thee

Out of my shameful, failure and loss  
Jesus I come, Jesus I come  
Into the glorious gain of Thy cross  
Jesus, I come to Thee  
Out of earth's sorrows into Thy balm  
Out of life's storms and into Thy calm  
Out of distress into jubilant psalm  
Jesus, I come to Thee

Out of the fear and dread of the tomb  
Jesus I come, Jesus I come  
Into the joy and light of Thy home  
Jesus, I come to Thee  
Out of the depths of ruin untold  
Into the peace of Thy sheltering fold  
Ever Thy glorious face to behold  
Jesus, I come to Thee

### 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?

If all our sins — past, present, and future — have already been forgiven through Jesus' blood, shed on the Cross 2000 years ago, why do we still confess our sins in worship?

For one thing, we are not God. While for him our sins have been removed from us "as far as the east is from the west" (Psalm 103:12), we often have trouble remembering that. Without this regular rite of confession and the reminder that our sins are really, truly gone, many of us could fall into despair under the burden of sins we no longer actually have to carry.

On the other hand, without this regular opportunity to contemplate where we have recently gone wrong, many of us could be tempted to forget about our sins and start thinking we are pretty good people all by ourselves!

## WORSHIP THROUGH CONFESSION

*congregation sits down and reads the bold print aloud*

Come, let us ask the mercy of God:

**O God, may your Spirit speak in me that I may speak to You.  
I have no merit, let the merit of Jesus stand for me.  
I am undeserving, but I look to your tender mercy.  
I find myself returning to that which has enslaved me;  
I confess my wanderings, my frequent and wilful sin,  
All my powers of body and soul are defiled.  
Help me in all my doings to put down sin and to break free in your grace.  
Grant me grace to delight in the Lord Jesus and walk in newness of life.  
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.**

### Jesus Paid It All | SONG OF CONFESSION

Words: Elvina Hall (1865) Music: John Grape (1868)

**I hear the Savior say,  
"Thy strength indeed is small;  
Child of weakness, watch and pray,  
Find in Me thine all in all."**

Dengarlah sabda-nya,  
Kau yang tak berdaya,  
Datanglah kepada-nya.  
Kau 'kan dapat sentosa.

**[Chorus]  
Jesus paid it all, All to Him I owe;  
Sin had left a crimson stain,  
He washed it white as snow.**

[Reff]  
Yesus bayar s'mua, hutang dosaku,  
Dosa bagai kirmizi,  
Jadi putih bersih.

**For nothing good have I  
Whereby Thy grace to claim,  
I'll wash my garments white  
In the blood of Calv'ry's Lamb.**

Tiadalah padaku,  
Suatu kebaikan,  
Tapi darah Tuhanku,  
Memb'rikan kelepaan.

**[Chorus]  
Jesus paid it all, All to Him I owe;  
Sin had left a crimson stain,  
He washed it white as snow.**

[Reff]  
Yesus bayar s'mua, hutang dosaku,  
Dosa bagai kirmizi,  
Jadi putih bersih.

**And when before the throne,  
I stand in Him complete,  
Jesus died my soul to save,  
My lips shall still repeat.**

Di depan takhta-nya,  
S'karang 'ku berlutut,  
'Ku jadi anak Allah,  
Hatiku bersyukurlah.

**[Chorus]  
Jesus paid it all, All to Him I owe;  
Sin had left a crimson stain,  
He washed it white as snow.**

[Reff]  
Yesus bayar s'mua, hutang dosaku,  
Dosa bagai kirmizi,  
Jadi putih bersih.

[1] For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore,  
and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

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

**Who You Say I Am | SONG OF PREPARATION**

Words & Music: Reuben Morgan, Ben Fielding ©2018 Hillsong Music

**Who am I that the highest King  
Would welcome me?  
I was lost but He brought me in  
Oh His love for me!  
Oh His love for me!**

**[Chorus 1]  
Who the Son sets free  
Oh is free indeed  
I'm a child of God  
Yes I am**

**Free at last He has ransomed me  
His grace runs deep  
While I was a slave to sin  
Jesus died for me  
Yes He died for me!**

**[Chorus 2]  
Who the Son sets free  
Oh is free indeed  
I'm a child of God  
Yes I am**

**In my Father's house  
There's a place for me  
I'm a child of God  
Yes I am**

**[Bridge]  
I am chosen not forsaken  
I am who You say I am  
You are for me not against me  
I am who You say I am**

**[Chorus 2]  
Who the Son sets free  
Oh is free indeed  
I'm a child of God  
Yes I am**

**In my Father's house  
There's a place for me  
I'm a child of God  
Yes I am**

**REASSURANCE**

Only those who are perfect can walk into God's presence and survive. Really we ought to be terrified to enter into worship like this!

The only way we dare do this is through faith in the fact that Jesus' sacrificed blood protects us from instant incineration. Through Jesus, we are no longer orphans or refugee street-kids, living in fear of being smacked around or sold into slavery; now we are God's adopted children, perfectly loved!

And as the bible says, "there is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment" (1 John 4:18). There is no punishment left for we who have believed in Jesus' forgiveness!

## 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 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**

[31] So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, [32] and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." [33] They answered him, "We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, 'You will become free'?"

[34] Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin.

[35] The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. [36] So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. [37] I know that you are offspring of Abraham; yet you seek to kill me because my word finds no place in you. [38] I speak of what I have seen with my Father, and you do what you have heard from your father."

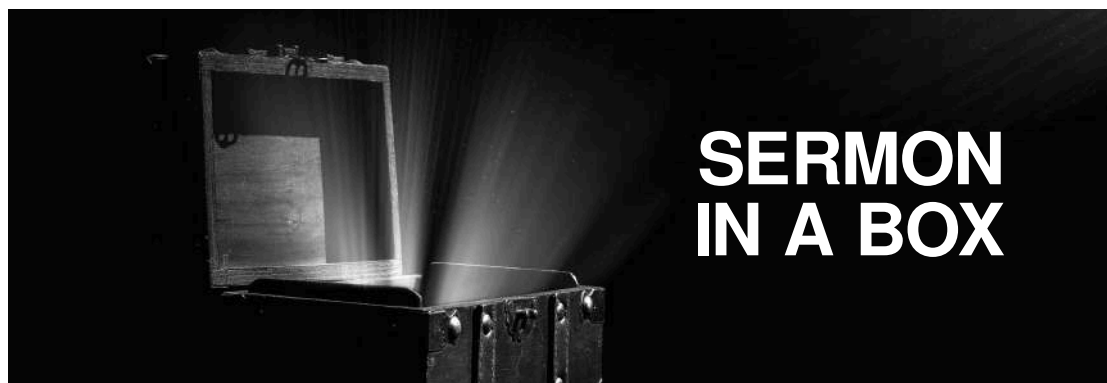
[39] They answered him, "Abraham is our father." Jesus said to them, "If you were Abraham's children, you would be doing the works Abraham did, [40] but now you seek to kill me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God. This is not what Abraham did. [41] You are doing the works your father did." They said to him, "We were not born of sexual immorality. We have one Father—even God."

[42] Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and I am here. I came not of my own accord, but he sent me. [43] Why do you not understand what I say? It is because you cannot bear to hear my word. [44] You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

[45] But because I tell the truth, you do not believe me. [46] Which one of you convicts me of sin? If I tell the truth, why do you not believe me? [47] Whoever is of God hears the words of God. The reason why you do not hear them is that you are not of God."

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 millennia.

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.

## Finding Freedom

### 1. Are you really free?

### 2. Who is your Master?

### 3. Where to find freedom?



## No Longer Slaves | SONG OF RESPONSE

Words & Music: Brian Johnson, Jonathan David Helsler, Joel Case ©2014 Bethel Music Publishing

You unravel me with a melody  
You surround me with a song  
Of deliverance from my enemies  
Till all my fears are gone

[Chorus]

I'm no longer a slave to fear  
I am a child of God

From my mother's womb you have chosen me  
Love has called my name  
I've been born again into your family  
Your blood flows through my veins

[Chorus]

I'm no longer a slave to fear  
I am a child of God

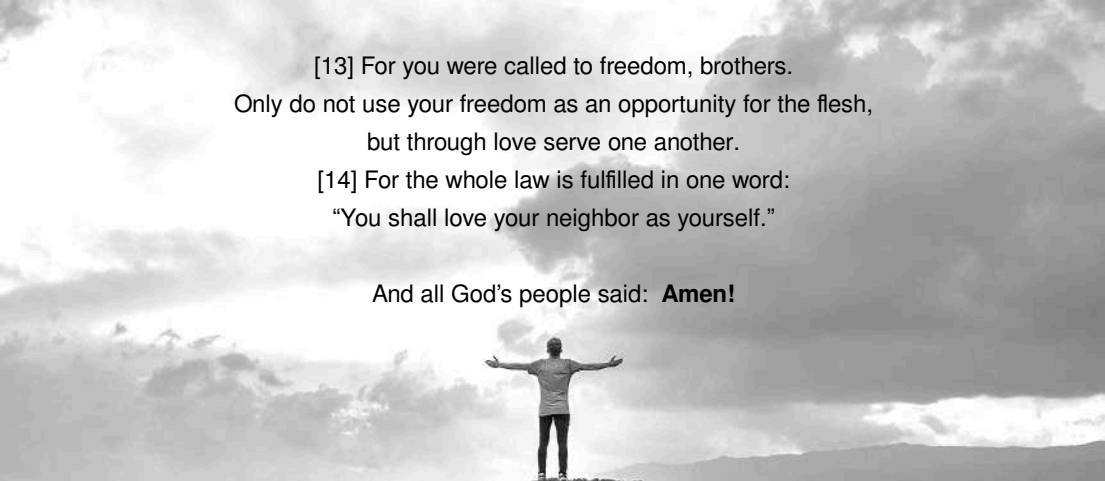
You split the sea so I could walk right through it  
My fears were drowned in perfect love  
You rescued me so I could stand and sing  
I am a child of God

[Chorus]

I'm no longer a slave to fear  
I am a child of God

### BENEDICTION

Galatians 5:13-14



[13] For you were called to freedom, brothers.  
Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh,  
but through love serve one another.  
[14] For the whole law is fulfilled in one word:  
"You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

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

### BLESSING

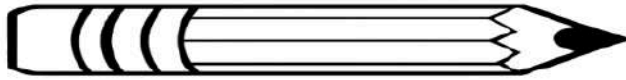
The benediction (meaning "Words of Blessing") is the close of our corporate conversation with God.

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:



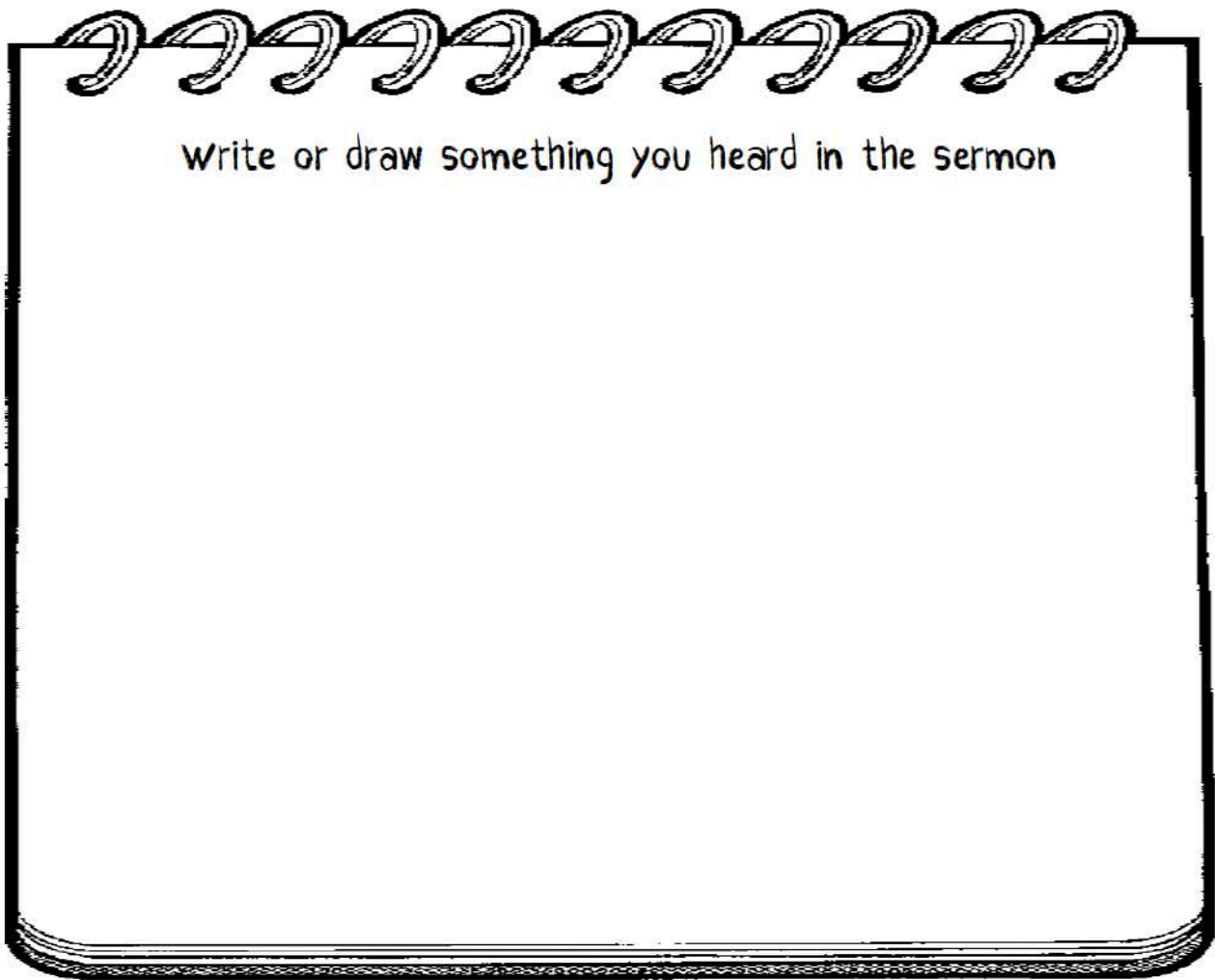
What are we learning about God from this passage?



Favorite song today was:

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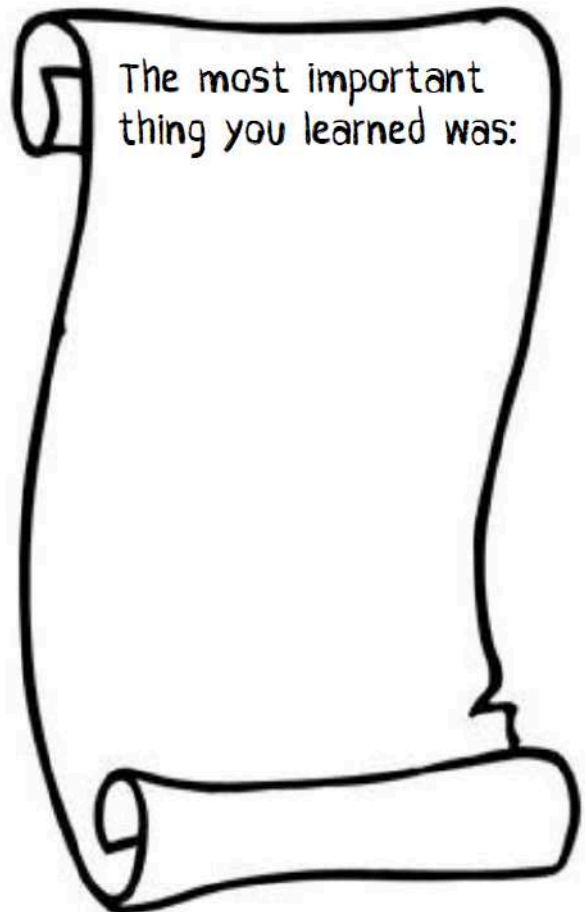
Write or draw something you heard in the sermon



Questions?



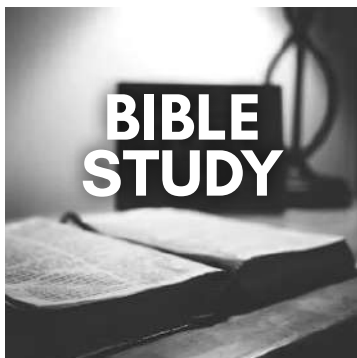
How does today's message apply to your life?



The most important thing you learned was:

## UPCOMING EVENTS

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### **BIBLE STUDY** **Tuesdays, 8pm**

Join our weekly Bible Study.



### **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



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