

# The Well

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

November 24, 2024

## WHO WE ARE

Welcome to The Well Church. We are a "centred set" church, and we are very glad you have chosen to worship with us today.

What is a "centred set" church? In the Australian Outback, farmers do not use fences to keep track of their animals - they dig wells, trusting that their herds will not stray too far from the source of life.

In the same way, we are a community centered around the well of living water: Jesus Christ himself.

In a "bounded set" community, you are either inside the fence or outside; you either fit, or you don't.

But in a centered set community, the important thing is that you are being drawn toward the well, drawn toward Jesus, the source of life.

We all come to the well at different speeds - and that is okay. So if you are a visitor with us today, no pressure! Follow along with us in this worship guide. Participate as much or as little as you would like. But we do hope you will get a taste of the water from the well at our center, and that ultimately you will find it as life-giving as we do.

## TWO THINGS:

**First:** if you have a particular need you would like us to pray for, please sms/whatsapp your request to **012 342 6766** 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.

## Still | GATHERING SONG

Words & Music: Reuben Morgan ©2002 Hillsong Music Publishing

**Hide me now  
Under your wings  
Cover me  
Within your mighty hand**

**[Chorus]**

**When the oceans rise and thunders roar  
I will soar with you above the storm  
Father you are King over the flood  
I will be still and know you are God**

**Find rest my soul  
In Christ alone  
Know his power  
In quietness and trust**

**[Chorus]**

## CALL TO WORSHIP

*congregation reads the bold print*

**Psalm 100:1-2**

[1] Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth!  
[2] Serve the LORD with gladness!  
Come into his presence with singing!

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

## Blessed Assurance | WORSHIP IN SONG

Words: Fanny Crosby (1873) Music: Phoebe Knapp (1873)

**Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!  
O what a foretaste of glory divine!  
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,  
Born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.**

**[Chorus]**

**This is my story, this is my song,  
Praising my Savior all the day long;  
This is my story, this is my song,  
Praising my Savior all the day long.**

Ku berbahagia, yahin teguh  
Yesus abadi kepunyaanku!  
Aku warisNya, ku ditebus,  
Ciptaan baru Rohul kudus.

**[Reff]**

Aku bernyanyi bahagia  
Memuji Yesus selamanya.  
Aku bernyanyi bahagia  
Memuji Yesus selamanya.

**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.

**Perfect submission, perfect delight,  
Visions of rapture now burst on my sight;  
Angels descending bring from above,  
Echoes of mercy, whispers of love.**

**[Chorus]**

**This is my story, this is my song,  
Praising my Savior all the day long;  
This is my story, this is my song,  
Praising my Savior all the day long.**

**Perfect submission, all is at rest;  
I in my Savior am happy and blessed,  
Watching and waiting, looking above,  
Filled with his goodness, lost in his love.**

**[Chorus]**

Pasrah sempurna, nikmat penuh;  
Suka sorgawi melimpahiku.  
Lagu malaikat amat merdu;  
Kasi dan rahmat besertaku.

[Reff]

Aku bernyanyi bahagia  
Memuji Yesus selamanya.  
Aku bernyanyi bahagia  
Memuji Yesus selamanya.

Pasrah sempurna, nikmat penuh;  
Suka sorgawi melimpahiku.  
Lagu malaikat amat merdu;  
Kasi dan rahmat besertaku.

[Reff]

**Guide Me Now O Great Redeemer | WORSHIP IN SONG**

Words: William Williams (1745) Music: John Hughes (1907)

**Guide me now, O great Redeemer,  
a pilgrim through this barren land.  
I am weak, but you are mighty:  
hold me with your powerful hand -  
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven  
Feed me till I want no more.  
Feed me till I want no more.**

Tuntun aku, Tuhan Allah,  
Lewat gurun dunia.  
Kau perkasa dan setia;  
Bimbing aku yang lemah.  
Roti sorga, roti sorga.  
Puaskanlah jiwaku,  
Puaskanlah jiwaku.

**Open now the crystal fountain,  
where the healing stream does flow.  
Let the fire and cloudy pillar  
lead me all my journey through -  
Strong deliverer, strong deliverer  
Lord, still be my strength and shield  
Lord, still be my strength and shield**

Buka sumber Air Hidup,  
Penyembuhan jiwaku,  
Dan berjalanlah di muka  
Dengan tiang awanmu.  
Jurus'alamat, jurus'alamat,  
Kau Perisai hidupku,  
Kau Perisai hidupku.

**When I tread the banks of Jordan,  
cause my anxious fears subside;  
Love of loves, and death's destruction,  
land me safe on Canaan's side -  
Songs of praises, songs of praises  
Lord how I long to be with you  
Lord how I long to be with you**

Pada batas Sungai Yordan  
Hapuskanlah takutku.  
Ya Penumpas kuasa maut,  
Tuntun aku sertamu.  
Pujianku, pujianku  
Bagimu selamanya,  
Bagimu selamanya.

Leader: Christian, what do you believe?

**People:**

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father; by whom all things were made; who for us and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; he suffered and was buried; and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father; and he shall come again, with glory, to judge both the living and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.**

**And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified. Who spoke by the prophets; and we believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church; we acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins; and we look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

**This is My Father's World | WORSHIP IN SONG**

Words: Maltible D. Babcock (1901) Music: English Folk Tune

**This is my Father's world  
And to my listening ears  
All nature sings and round me ring  
The music of the spheres  
This is my Father's world  
I rest me in the thought  
Of rocks and trees and skies and seas  
His hand the wonders wrought**

**This is my Father's world  
The birds their carols raise  
The morning light, the lily white  
Declare the Maker's praise  
This is my Father's world  
He shines in all that's fair  
In the rustling grass I hear Him pass  
He speaks to me everywhere**

**This is my Father's world  
O let me ne'er forget  
That though the wrong seems oft so strong  
God is the ruler yet  
This is my Father's world  
Why should my heart be sad?  
The Lord is King: let the heaven's ring!  
God reigns, let earth be glad!**

**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!

## 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*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor:

**Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. In Your mercy, grant us humble repentance. In your grace, fix our eyes on your Son Jesus Christ. Have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. 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.**

## I Need Thee Every Hour | SONG OF CONFESSION

Words: Annie S. Hawks (1872) Music: Robert Lowry (1872)

**I need Thee every hour, most gracious Lord;  
No tender voice like Thine can peace afford.  
I need Thee every hour, stay Thou nearby;  
Temptations lose their power when Thou art nigh.**

Ya Tuhan, tiap jam 'ku memerlukanmu,  
Engkaulah yang memb'ri sejahtera penuh  
Ya Tuhan, tiap jam dampingi hambamu;  
Jikalau kau dekat, enyah penggodaku.

**[Chorus]  
I need Thee, O I need Thee;  
Every hour I need Thee;  
O bless me now, my Savior,  
I come to Thee.**

[Reff]  
Setiap jam, ya Tuhan,  
Dikau kuperlukan;  
'Ku datang, Jurus'lamat,  
Berkatilah!

**I need Thee every hour, in joy or pain;  
Come quickly and abide, or life is in vain.  
I need Thee every hour; teach me Thy will;  
And Thy rich promises in me fulfill.**

Ya Tuhan, tiap jam, di suka-dukaku,  
Jikalau Tuhan jauh, percuma hidupku.  
Ya Tuhan, tiap jam, ajarkan maksudmu;  
b'ri janjimu genap di dalam hidupku.

**[Chorus]  
I need Thee every hour, most Holy One;  
O make me Thine indeed, Thou blessed Son.**

[Reff]  
Ya Tuhan, tiap jam kuperlukanmu;  
Tuhanku yang kudus, kekal 'ku milikmu!

**[Chorus] [Reff]**

## PROMISE OF FORGIVENESS

*congregation listens while the minister reads*

1 John 1:9

[9] If we confess our sins,  
he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

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

## **His Mercy is More | SONG OF PRAISE**

Words & Music: Matt Boswell, Matt Papa 2016 Messenger Hymns

**What love could remember no wrongs we have done  
Omniscient, all knowing, he counts not their sum  
Thrown into a sea without bottom or shore  
Our sins they are many  
His mercy is more**

**[Chorus]**

**Praise the Lord, his mercy is more  
Stronger than darkness  
New every morn  
Our sins they are many  
His mercy is more**

**What patience would wait as we constantly roam  
What Father, so tender is calling us home  
He welcomes the weakest, the vilest, the poor  
Our sins they are many  
His mercy is more**

**[Chorus]**

**What riches of kindness he lavished on us  
His blood was the payment, his life was the cost  
We stood 'neath a debt we could never afford  
Our sins they are many  
his mercy is more**

**[Chorus]**

## **Still | SONG OF PREPARATION**

Words & Music: Reuben Morgan ©2002 Hillsong Music Publishing

**Hide me now  
Under your wings  
Cover me  
Within your mighty hand**

**[Chorus]**

**When the oceans rise and thunders roar  
I will soar with you above the storm  
Father you are King over the flood  
I will be still and know you are God**

**Find rest my soul  
In Christ alone  
Know his power  
In quietness and trust**

**[Chorus]**

## 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 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**

- [27] Why do you say, O Jacob,  
and speak, O Israel,  
“My way is hidden from the LORD,  
and my right is disregarded by my God”?
- [28] Have you not known? Have you not heard?  
The LORD is the everlasting God,  
the Creator of the ends of the earth.  
He does not faint or grow weary;  
his understanding is unsearchable.
- [29] He gives power to the faint,  
and to him who has no might he increases strength.
- [30] Even youths shall faint and be weary,  
and young men shall fall exhausted;
- [31] but they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength;  
they shall mount up with wings like eagles;  
they shall run and not be weary;  
they shall walk and not faint.

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.

## Comfort in Waiting

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.

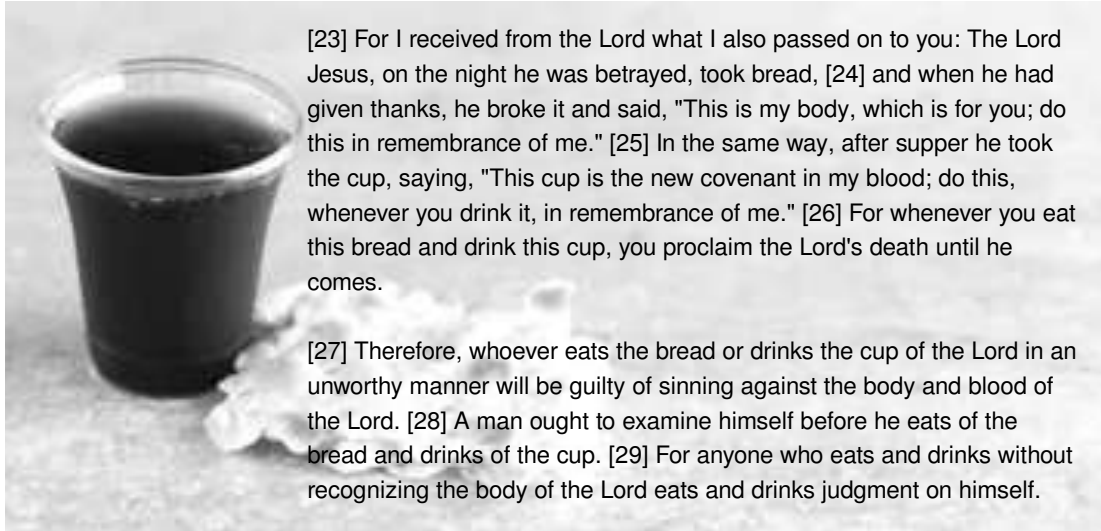
Of course, in ancient times preaching was the only way ordinary people could interact with God's Word. Books were very rare and expensive, and few people could read. But things are very different today. So why do we still insist on preaching? Why can't each person simply read God's Word for themselves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





[23] For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, [24] and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me." [25] In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." [26] For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

[27] Therefore, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. [28] A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup. [29] For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself.

## BENEDICTION

2 Corinthians 13:14

[14] The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ  
and the love of God  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit  
be with you all.

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



## OUR FATHER'S TABLE

One of the great privileges of baptism is getting to join our brothers and sisters at our Father's dinner table. With this symbolic meal of bread and wine, we remember that it was through the sacrifice of our older brother Jesus that we get to be part of God's family at all!

## BLESSING

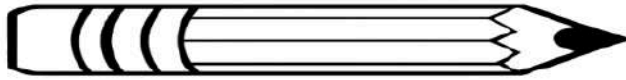
The benediction (meaning "Words of Blessing") is the close of our corporate conversation with God.

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:

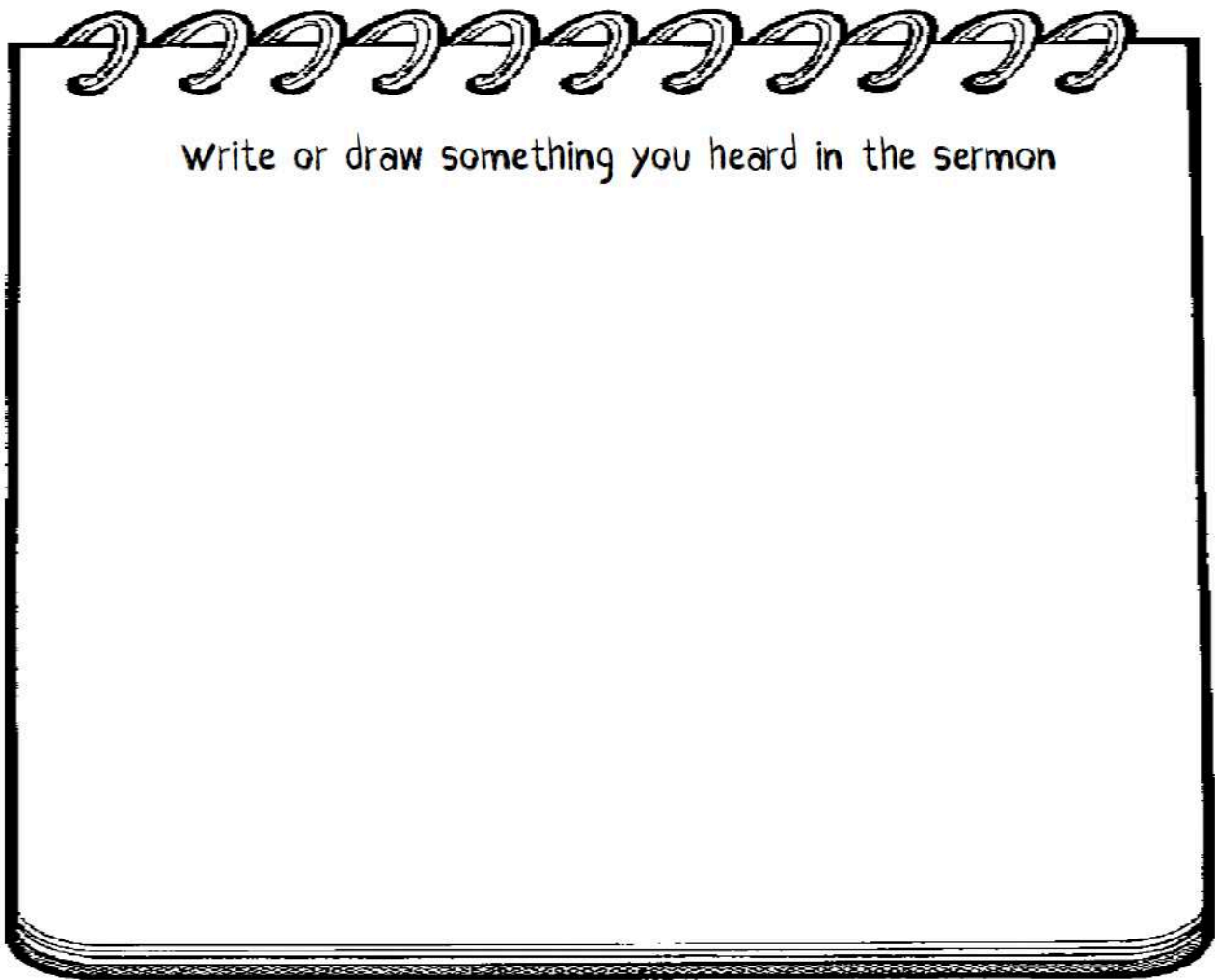
what are we learning about God from this passage?



Favorite song today was:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



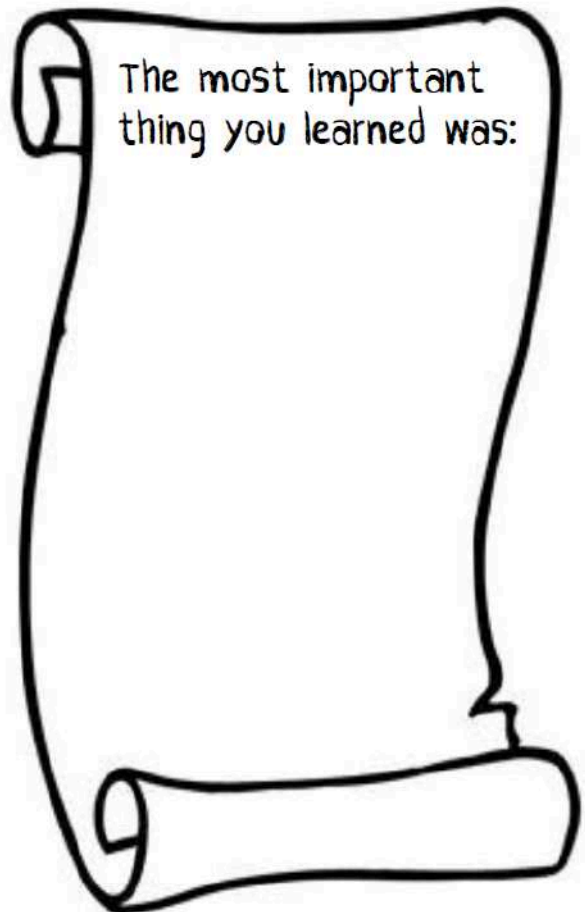
Write or draw something you heard in the sermon



Questions?



How does today's message apply to your life?



The most important thing you learned was:



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