

The Well

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

THE STORY OF FRIENDSHIP: RESTORATION

July 28th, 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.

Come As You Are | GATHERING SONG

Words & Music: Ben Glover, David Crowder, Matt Maher @G2014 9t One Songs, Ariose Music, Init Music, sixsteps Music

**Come out of sadness from wherever you've been
Come brokenhearted let rescue begin
Come find your mercy, O sinner, come kneel
Earth has no sorrow that heaven can't heal**

[Chorus]

**Lay down your burdens, lay down your shame
All who are broken, lift up your face
O wanderer, come home, you're not too far
So lay down your hurt, lay down your heart
Come as you are**

**There's hope for the hopeless and all those who've strayed
Come sit at the table, come taste the grace
There's rest for the weary, rest that endures
Earth has no sorrow that heaven can't heal**

[Chorus]

**There's joy for the morning, O sinner be still
Earth has no sorrow that heaven can't heal
Earth has no sorrow that heaven can't heal**

[Chorus]

CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 87

- [1] On the holy mount stands the city he founded;
- [2] the LORD loves the gates of Zion
more than all the dwelling places of Jacob.
- [3] Glorious things of you are spoken, O city of God. Selah
- [4] Among those who know me I mention Rahab and Babylon;
behold, Philistia and Tyre, with Cush—
"This one was born there," they say.
- [5] And of Zion it shall be said,
"This one and that one were born in her";
for the Most High himself will establish her.
- [6] The LORD records as he registers the peoples,
"This one was born there." Selah
- [7] Singers and dancers alike say, "All my springs are in you."

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.

**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!"

Shout to the North | WORSHIP IN SONG

Words & Music: Martin Smith ©1995 Curious? Music UK

**Men of faith, rise up and sing
Of the great and glorious King
You are strong when you feel weak
In your brokenness complete**

[Chorus]

**Shout to the north and the south
Sing to the east and the west
Jesus is Savior to all
Lord of heaven and earth**

**Rise up, women of the truth
Stand and sing to broken hearts
Who can know the healing pow'r
Of our awesome King of love**

[Chorus]

**Rise up, church with broken wings
Fill this place with songs again
Of our God who reigns on high
By His grace again we'll fly**

[Chorus]

He Hides My Soul | WORSHIP IN SONG

Words: Fanny Crosby Music: William James Kirkpatrick

**A wonderful savior is Jesus my Lord
A wonderful savior to me
He hides my soul in the cleft of the rock
Where rivers of pleasure I see**

Yesus, Jurus'lamat, Pelindung ajaib,
Pelindung bagi diriku.
Naungan jiwaku yang kokoh, teguh,
Tempat nan sejuk dan tent'ram

**A wonderful Saviour is Jesus my Lord
He takes my burden away
He lifts me up where I cannot be moved
He gives me strength as my day**

Yesus, Jurus'lamat, Penopang ajaib,
Penopang bagi hidupku.
Bebanku ditanggung: 'ku jadi tegak;
Kekuatan dib'ri bagiku.

[Chorus]

**He hides my soul in the cleft of the rock
That shadows a dry thirsty land
He hides my life in the depths of his love
And covers me there with his hand
And covers me there with his hand**

[Reff]

Jiwaku teduh dalam naungan-Nya,
Di dunia gelap dan gersang.
Hidupku tenangoleh kasih penuh;
'Ku aman dalam tangan-Nya.
'Ku aman dalam tangan-Nya.

**A wonderful savior is Jesus my Lord
And filled with his fullness divine
I sing in my rapture 'O glory to God!
For such a redeemer as mine**

Tiada terhitung berkat bagiku
Di dalam kepenuhan-Nya.
Kelak Tuhan datang 'ku diangkat-Nya
Gloria, 'kunyanyi megah

[Chorus]

**When clothed in his brightness transported I rise
To meet him in clouds of the sky
His perfect salvation his wonderful love
I'll shout with the billions on high**

[Reff]

Di dalam kemuliaan Anak Allah
Di awanku 'kan bertemu;
Dengan para saleh di surga kelak
KasihNya akan kuseru.

[Chorus]

[Reff]

Q. 90. What shall be done to the righteous at the day of judgment?

At the day of judgment, the righteous, being caught up to Christ in the clouds, shall be set on his right hand, and there openly acknowledged and acquitted, shall join with him in the judging of reprobate angels and men, and shall be received into heaven, where they shall be fully and for ever freed from all sin and misery: filled with inconceivable joys, made perfectly holy and happy both in body and soul, in the company of innumerable saints and holy angels, but especially in the immediate vision and fruition of God the Father, of our Lord Jesus Christ, and of the Holy Spirit, to all eternity. And this is the perfect and full communion, which the members of the invisible church shall enjoy with Christ in glory, at the resurrection and day of judgment.

Guide Me O Thou Great Jehovah | WORSHIP IN SONG

Words: William Williams (1745), Jeremy Casella Music: Jeremy Casella ©2002 2037 Music

**Guide me, O Thou Great Jehovah
pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak, but Thou art mighty:
hold me with Thy powerful hand -
Bread of heaven, feed me now and evermore
Bread of heaven, feed me now and evermore**

**Open now the crystal fountain,
whence the healing waters flow
Let the fire and cloudy pillar
lead me all my journey through -
Strong deliverer, be thou still my strength and shield
Strong deliverer, be thou still my strength and shield**

**When I tread the banks of Jordan,
bid my anxious fears subside;
Death of death and hell's destruction
land me safe on Canaan's side
Songs of praises, I will ever give to Thee
Songs of praises, I will ever give to Thee**

WORSHIP THROUGH CONFESSION

congregation sits down and reads the bold print aloud

Come, let us ask the mercy of God:

Heavenly Father, how great the promise of all that we have awaiting us in the new heavens and earth because of Jesus. We confess that we lack faith to believe this promise. In our lack, we confess that we often cling to this world, trying to make it into our heaven. We confess that we build our little kingdoms rather than receive your glorious kingdom. Have mercy on us, O God. Grant us repentance in Christ alone by grace alone through faith alone. In your Son's 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.**

**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?

In the ancient world, a king who failed to rule fairly would eventually bring death and destruction on his people. In the same way, a people who failed to obey their king brought dishonor upon him and exile upon themselves. The relationship between king and his people was viewed as a symbiotic one: they would stand or fall together. A good king was to be like a father to his subjects.

We are fortunate to worship a King who never fails to rule fairly, though we often bring dishonor to his name. Instead of driving us out of his kingdom, God's righteous King takes our dishonor upon himself and pays the fine required by his own Law, allowing us to remain his beloved children.

All he asks is that we admit to him what we have done, and accept his forgiveness.

In many ways, this act of confession is at the very center of our faith. By doing this, we trust that our King is a man of his word: that he will have mercy upon us as he promised, and not punish us as we deserve.

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 kelepuasan.

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

[Reff]
Di depan takhta-nya,
S'karang 'ku berlutut,
'Ku jadi anak Allah,
Hatiku bersyukur.

[Chorus] [Reff]

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.

PROMISE OF FORGIVENESS

congregation listens while the minister reads

1 Corinthians 15:54-57

[54] When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written:

"Death is swallowed up in victory."

[55] "O death, where is your victory?

O death, where is your sting?"

[56] The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law.

[57] But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

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

In Christ Alone | SONG OF PRAISE

Words & Music: Stewart Townend, Keith Getty ©2001 Kingway's Thankyou Music

**In Christ alone my hope is found
He is my light, my strength, my song
This Cornerstone, this solid ground
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm
What heights of love, what depths of peace
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease
My Comforter, my all in all
Here in the love of Christ I stand.**

In Christ alone who took on flesh,
Fullness of God in helpless babe
This gift of love and righteousness
Scorned by the ones he came to save
'Til on the cross as Jesus died
The wrath of God was satisfied
For every sin on him was laid
Here in the death of Christ I live

There in the ground his body lay
Light of the world by darkness slain
Then bursting forth in glorious day
Up from the grave he rose again!
And as he stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me
For I am his and he is mine
Bought with the precious blood of Christ

No guilt in life no fear in death
This is the power of Christ in me
From life's first cry to final breath
Jesus commands my destiny
No power of hell no scheme of man
Can ever pluck me from his hand
Till he returns or calls me home
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand!

We Will Feast In The House of Zion | SONG OF PREPARATION

Words & Music: Joshua Moore, Sandra McCracken ©2015 Integrity Worship Music

[Chorus]

We will feast in the house of Zion
We will sing with our hearts restored
He has done great things, we will say together
We will feast and weep no more

We will not be burned by the fire
He is the Lord, our God
We are not consumed by the flood
Upheld, protected, gathered up

[Chorus]

In the dark of night before the dawn
My soul, be not afraid
For the promised morning, oh how long
Oh God of Jacob, be my strength

[Chorus]

Every vow we've broken and betrayed
You are the faithful One
And from the garden to the grave
Bind us together, bring shalom

[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?" (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 Thessalonians 2:17-20

[17] But since we were torn away from you, brothers, for a short time, in person not in heart, we endeavored the more eagerly and with great desire to see you face to face, [18] because we wanted to come to you—I, Paul, again and again—but Satan hindered us. [19] For what is our hope or joy or crown of boasting before our Lord Jesus at his coming? Is it not you? [20] For you are our glory and joy.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

[13] But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. [14] For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. [15] For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. [16] For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. [17] Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. [18] Therefore encourage one another with these words.

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.

The Restoration of Friendships

1. The Coming of Jesus restores friendships in the future (grieve hopefully)

2. The Coming of Jesus strengthen friendships in the present (love deeply)

We Will Feast In The House of Zion | SONG OF RESPONSE

Words & Music: Joshua Moore, Sandra McCracken ©2015 Integrity Worship Music

[Chorus]

We will feast in the house of Zion
We will sing with our hearts restored
He has done great things, we will say together
We will feast and weep no more

We will not be burned by the fire
He is the Lord, our God
We are not consumed by the flood
Upheld, protected, gathered up

[Chorus]

Every vow we've broken and betrayed
You are the faithful One
And from the garden to the grave
Bind us together, bring shalom

[Chorus]

BENEDICTION

Romans 15:13

[13] May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,
so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

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



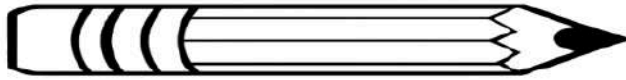
BLESSING

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?



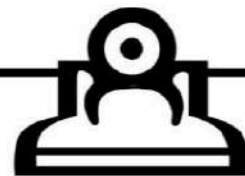
words you heard but don't know...

What is the main passage we are reading today?

Book:

Chapter:

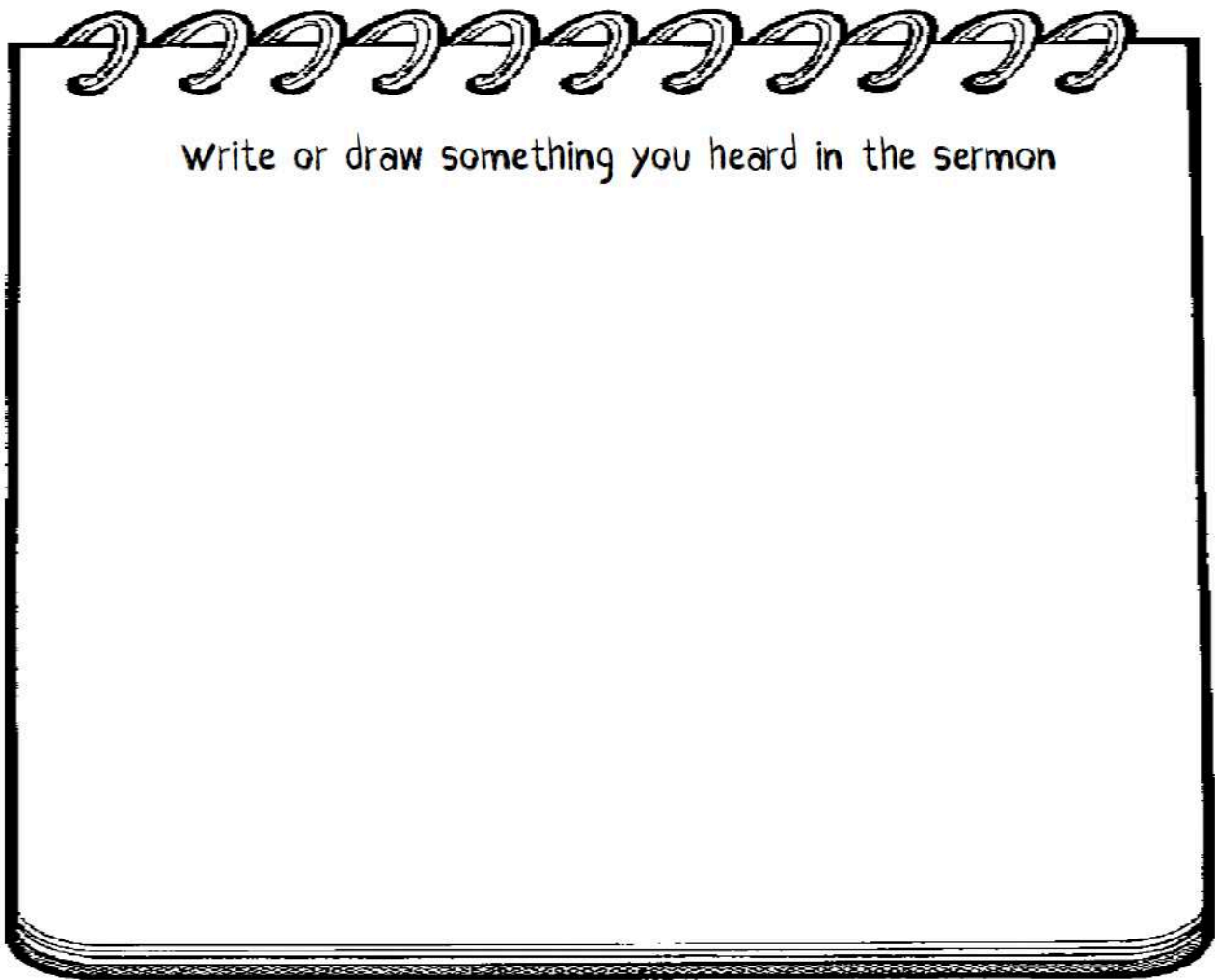
Verse:



What are we learning about God from this passage?



Favorite song today was:



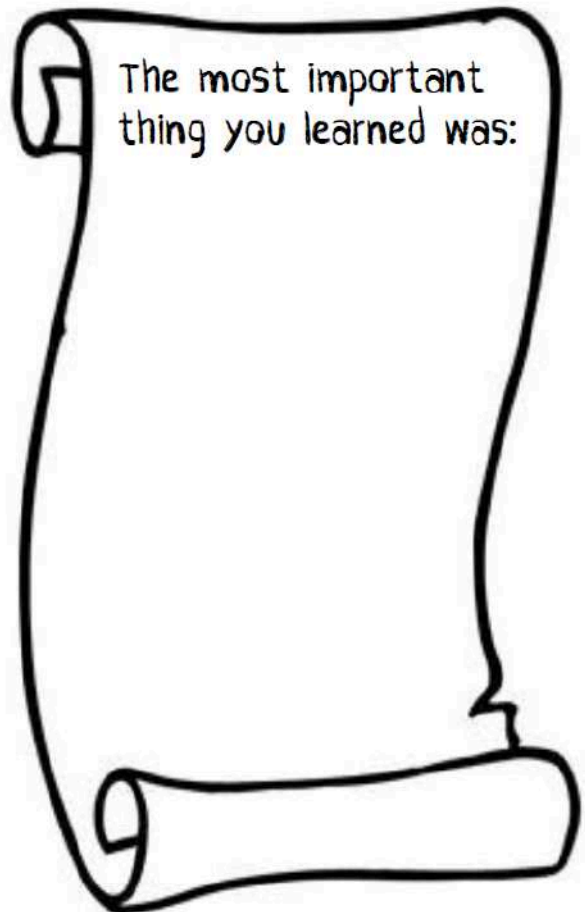
Write or draw something you heard in the sermon



Questions?

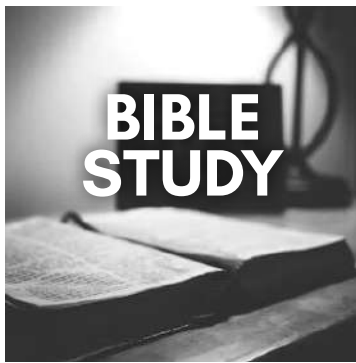


How does today's message apply to your life?



The most important thing you learned was:

UPCOMING EVENTS



BIBLE STUDY Tuesdays, 8pm

Come and join us as we meet every Tuesday night to spend time studying the Bible together. We are currently studying 1 Corinthians. If you are interested or need more information, please contact Ps. Brian at +60 11 7521 9450.



TODDLER TEAM

Come and serve God by helping our young families during the Sunday service. For more information, please contact Ps. Brian at +60 11 7521 9450.



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