

The Well

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

October 13th, 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 **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.

Good Good Father | GATHERING SONG

Words & Music: Anthony Brown & Pat Barrett ©2014 Capitol CMG Paragon

**I've heard a thousand stories of what they think you're like
But I've heard the tender whisper of love in the dead of night
You tell me that you're pleased and that I'm never alone**

[Chorus]

**You're a good good father, it's who you are
It's who you are, it's who you are
And I'm loved by you, it's who I am
It's who I am, it's who I am**

**I've seen many searching for answers far and wide
But I know we're all searching for answers only you provide
'Cause you know just what we need before we say a word**

[Chorus]

CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 19:1-6

[1] The heavens declare the glory of God,
and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.

[2] Day to day pours out speech,
and night to night reveals knowledge.

[3] There is no speech, nor are there words,
whose voice is not heard.

[4] Their voice goes out through all the earth,
and their words to the end of the world.

In them he has set a tent for the sun,

[5] which comes out like a bridegroom leaving his chamber,
and, like a strong man, runs its course with joy.

[6] Its rising is from the end of the heavens,
and its circuit to the end of them,
and there is nothing hidden from its heat.

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.

A Mighty Fortress is Our God | WORSHIP IN SONG

Words & Music: Martin Luther (1529)

**A mighty fortress is our God,
A bulwark never failing;
Our helper he amidst the flood
Of mortal ills prevailing:
For still our ancient foe
Doth seek to work us woe;
His craft and pow'r are great,
And armed with cruel hate,
On earth is not his equal.**

Allahmu benteng yang teguh,
Perisai dan senjata;
Betapa pun sengsaramu,
PertolonganNya nyata!
Si jahat yang geram
Berniat 'kan menang;
Ngeri kuasanya
Dan tipu dayanya
Di bumi tak bertara.

**Did we in our own strength confide,
Our striving would be losing;
Were not the right man on our side,
The man of God's own choosing:
Do you ask who that may be?
Christ Jesus, it is he;
The Lord of Hosts his name,
From age to age the same,
And he must win the battle.**

Dengan tenaga yang fana
Niscaya kita kalah.
Pahlawan kita Dialah
Yang diurapi Allah.
Siapa namaNya?
Sang Kristus mulia,
Tuhan Yang Esa,
Panglima semesta.
Niscaya la jaya!

**And though this world with devils filled,
Should threaten to undo us;
We will not fear, for God hath willed
His truth to triumph through us:
The prince of darkness grim,
We tremble not for him;
His rage we can endure,
For lo, his doom is sure,
One little word shall fell him.**

Penuhpun setan dunia
Yang mau menumpas kita,
Jangan gentar melihatnya;
Iman tak sia-sia!
Penghulu kuasa g'lap,
Meskipun menyergap,
Mustahil 'kan menang;
Kuasanya ditebang
Dengan sepatah kata.

**That word above all earthly pow'rs,
No thanks to them abideth;
The Spirit and the gifts are ours
Through him who with us sideth:
Let goods and kindred go,
This mortal life also;
The body they may kill;
God's truth abideth still,
His Kingdom is forever.**

FirmanNya pertahankan
T'rus dan puji hanya Dia!
Dengan kuasa Roh Kudus
la di pihak kita.
Kendati hidupmu
Diambil seteru,
Pun harta dan benda,
Akhirnya kitalah
Yang punya Kerajaan!

Joyful Joyful We Adore Thee | WORSHIP IN SONG

Words: Henry J. Van Dyke (1907) Music: Hymn to Joy by Ludwig van Beethoven

**Joyful, joyful we adore Thee
God of glory, Lord of love
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before Thee
Op'ning to the sun above
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness
Drive the dark of doubt away
Giver of immortal gladness
Fill us with the light of day!**

All Thy works with joy surround Thee,
Earth and heav'n reflect Thy rays,
Stars and angels sing around Thee,
Center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
Flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,
Singing bird and flowing fountain
Call us to rejoice in Thee.

Thou art giving and forgiving,
Ever blessing, ever blest,
Wellspring of the joy of living,
Ocean depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ our Brother,
All who live in love are Thine;
Teach us how to love each other,
Lift us to the joy divine.

Mortals, join the happy chorus,
Which the morning stars began;
Father love is reigning o'er us,
Brother love binds man to man.
Ever singing, march we onward,
Victors in the midst of strife,
Joyful music leads us Sunward
In the triumph song of life.

CONFESSION OF FAITH

congregation reads the bold print

Psalm 19:7-11

Leader: The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul;

People: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple;

Leader: the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart;

People: the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes;

Leader: the fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever;

People: the rules of the LORD are true, and righteous altogether.

Leader: More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey
and drippings of the honeycomb.

**People: Moreover, by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great
reward.**

Blessed Be Your Name | WORSHIP IN SONG

Words & Music: Matt Redman ©2002 Kingway's Thankyou Music

Blessed be your name in the land that is plentiful
Where your streams of abundance flow
Blessed be your name

Blessed be your name, when I'm found in the desert place
Though I walk through the wilderness
Blessed be your name

Every blessing you pour out I'll turn back to praise
When the darkness closes in Lord still I will say

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!

[Chorus]

Blessed be the name of the Lord

Blessed be your name

Blessed be the name of the Lord

Blessed be your glorious name

Blessed be your name, when the sun's shining down on me

When the world's all as it should be

Blessed be your name

Blessed be your name on the road marked with suffering

Though there's pain in the offering

Blessed be your name

Every blessing you pour out I'll turn back to praise

When the darkness closes in Lord still I will say

[Chorus]

Bridge:

You give and take away

You give and take away

My heart will choose to say

Lord blessed be your name

[Chorus]

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

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.

He Will Hold Me Fast | SONG OF CONFESSION

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

When I fear my faith will fail, Christ will hold me fast

When the tempter would prevail, He will hold me fast

I could never keep my hold through life's fearful path

For my love is often cold, He must hold me fast

[Chorus]

He will hold me fast

He will hold me fast

For my Savior loves me so

He will hold me fast

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

[Chorus]
He will hold me fast
He will hold me fast
For my Savior loves me so
He will hold me fast

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

[Chorus]

PROMISE OF FORGIVENESS

congregation listens while the minister reads

1 John 1:7-9

[7] But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light,
we have fellowship with one another,
and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

[8] If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

[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.

How Firm a Foundation | SONG OF PRAISE

Words: John Rippon (1787) Music: Joseph Funk (1832)

**How firm a foundation, you saints of the Lord,
Is laid for your faith in his excellent Word.
What more can he say than to you he has said
To you, who for refuge to Jesus have fled?**

**“Fear not, I am with you, O be not dismayed.
For I am your God, and will still give you aid.
I'll strengthen you, help you and cause you to stand
Upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.”**

**“When through the deep waters I call you to go,
The rivers of sorrow shall not overflow;
For I will be with you your troubles to bless,
And sanctify to you your deepest distress.”**

**“The soul that on Jesus has leaned for repose
I will not, I will not desert to its foes;
that soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I will never, no, never, no never forsake!”**

Dasarnya teguh bagi yang beriman:
Yang lari padanya selalu aman!
Janjinya tetap, tak perlu kau gentar:
Berlindung padanya, sabdanya benar:

“Di waktu sedih, sakit, atau senang,
Di waktu mewah, makmur, atau kurang,
Janganlah engkau bimbang, takut sesat:
Akulah Allahmu, selalu dekat.”

“Di kala cobaan membayangimu,
Ketika bencana menindih kalbu,
Rahmatku cukup, jangan kau mengeluh:
Hidupmu teruji, imanmu teguh.”

“Karna pada Yesus tetap imanmu,
Tak akan engkau dikalahkan set'ru.
Walaupun neraka siap menelan,
Tak akan, tak akan aku tinggalkan!

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.

Ancient of Days | SONG OF PREPARATION

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]

**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]

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.

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

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.

THE READING OF GOD'S WORD

2 Peter 1:16-2:3

2 Peter 1:16-21

[16] For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. [17] For when he received honor and glory from God the Father, and the voice was borne to him by the Majestic Glory, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased," [18] we ourselves heard this very voice borne from heaven, for we were with him on the holy mountain. [19] And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts, [20] knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. [21] For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

2 Peter 2:1-3

[1] But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction. [2] And many will follow their sensuality, and because of them the way of truth will be blasphemed. [3] And in their greed they will exploit you with false words. Their condemnation from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!



**SERMON
IN A BOX**

The Power of the Prophetic Word

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.

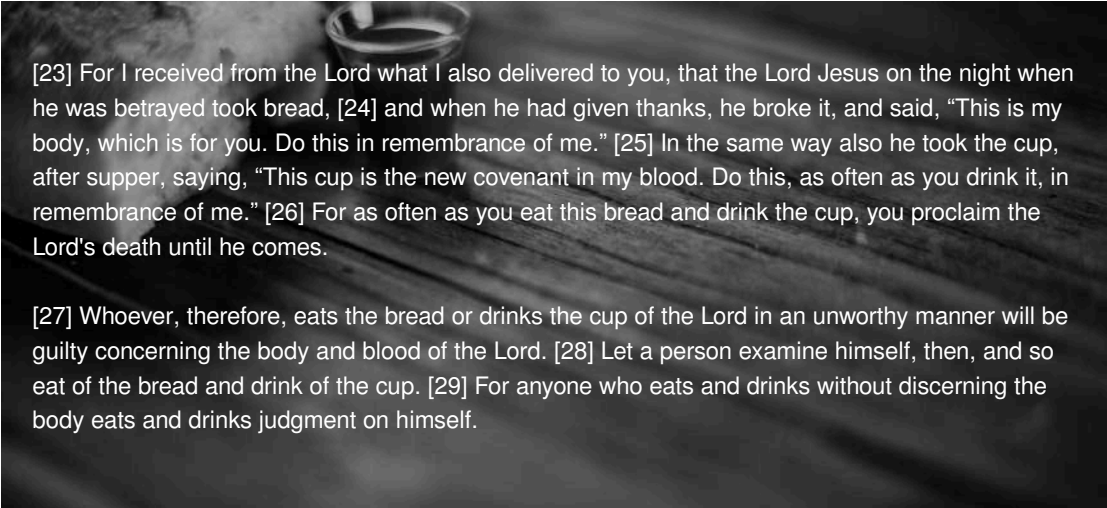
Second, scripture itself tells us that preaching his Word is the best way to introduce people to God, and the best way to connect our small church to the rest of God's People.

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 delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when 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 also he took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." [26] For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

[27] Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord. [28] Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. [29] For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself.



[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!**

In ancient cultures, bread and wine were staples, essential for life. They nourish the body and delight the senses. And just like today, they were considered essential elements for a community gathering!

But in the bible especially, bread and wine symbolize God's blessings upon his people: "May God give you of the dew of heaven and of the fatness of the earth and plenty of grain and wine." (Genesis 27:28).

Jesus' death has redeemed us once and for all, and his perfect obedience on our behalf guarantees us that the bread will never run out, and the wine will never stop flowing! So every time we centre our community around this meal, we remember the price Jesus paid to secure it; every time we partake of this bread and wine, we are receiving a small foretaste of the eternal feast to come.

BLESSING

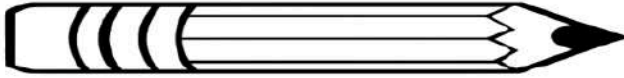
The benediction (meaning "Words of Blessing") is the close of our corporate conversation with God.

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?



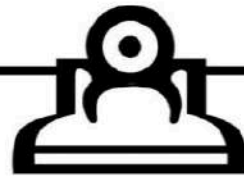
words you heard but don't know...

What is the main passage we are reading today?

Book:

Chapter:

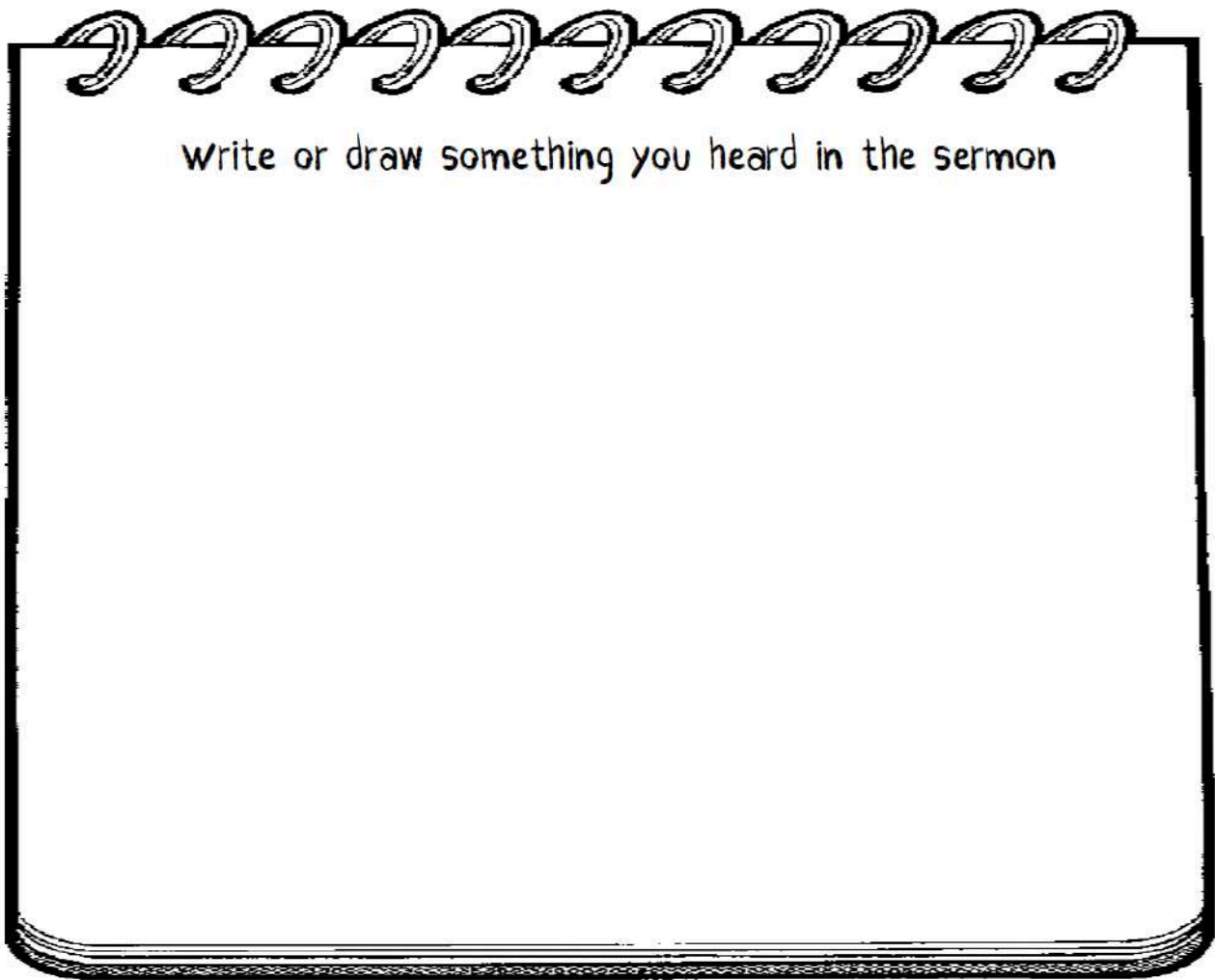
Verse:



What are we learning about God from this passage?



Favorite song today was:



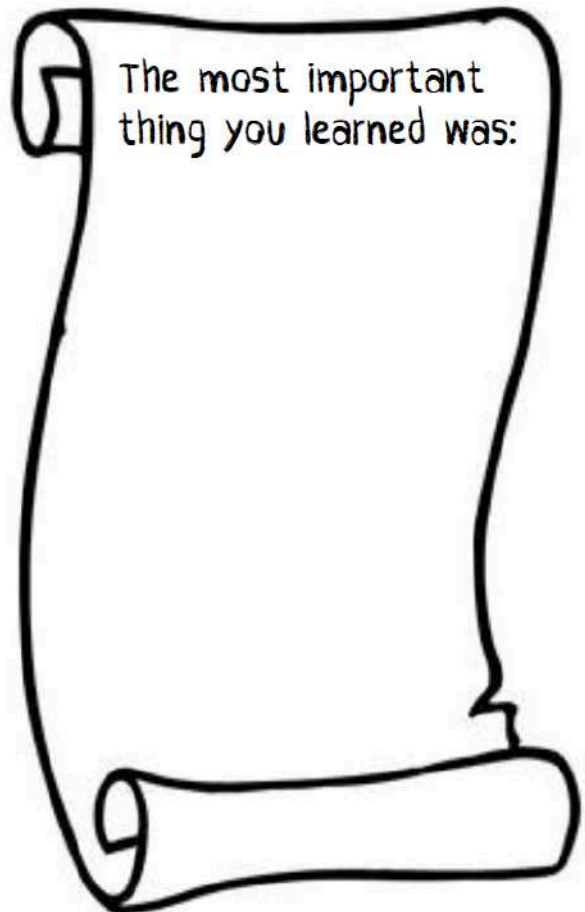
Write or draw something you heard in the sermon



Questions?



How does today's message apply to your life?



The most important thing you learned was:

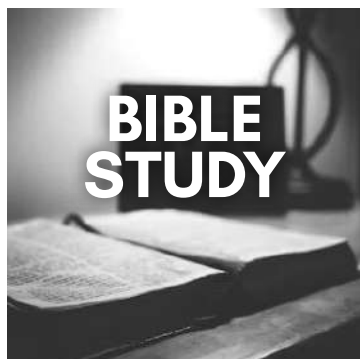
UPCOMING EVENTS



EXTRAORDINARY CONGREGATIONAL MEETING (EGM)

Sunday, October 20

There will be an Extraordinary Congregational Meeting next Sunday, October 20 right after worship service.



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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