

The Well

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

November 3rd, 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.

Thy Word | GATHERING SONG

Words & Music: Amy Grant, Michael W. Smith ©1984 Meadowgreen Music Company, Curb Word Music

[Chorus]

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet
And a light unto my path
Thy word is a lamp unto my feet
And a light unto my path

When I feel afraid, think I've lost my way
Still You're there right beside me
Nothing will I fear as long as You are near
Please be near me to the end

[Chorus]

CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 19:7-14

[7] The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul;
the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple;
[8] the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart;
the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes;
[9] the fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever;
the rules of the LORD are true, and righteous altogether.
[10] More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold;
sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb.
[11] Moreover, by them is your servant warned;
in keeping them there is great reward.
[12] Who can discern his errors?
Declare me innocent from hidden faults.
[13] Keep back your servant also from presumptuous sins;
let them not have dominion over me!
Then I shall be blameless, and innocent of great transgression.
[14] Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
be acceptable in your sight,
O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.

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!"

Come Now is the Time to Worship | WORSHIP IN SONG

Words & Music: Brian Doerksen ©1998 Vineyard Songs

[Chorus]

**Come now is the time to worship
Come now is the time to give your heart
Come just as you are to worship
Come just as you are before your God
Come**

**One day every tongue will confess you are God
One day every knee will bow
Still the greatest treasure remains for those
Who gladly choose you now**

[Chorus]

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**

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

**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**

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

**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**

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

We believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth. Kami percayakan pada Tuhan Bapa Yang Maha Esa, pencipta Agung syurga dan alam semesta.

We believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. From there he will come again to judge the living and the dead. Dan kepada Yesus Kristus, anakNya yang tunggal, Tuhan kita. Dikurniakan oleh kuasa Roh Kudus, dihamilkan oleh Mariam Yang Dara, terseksa di bawah perintah Pontius Pilate, di-salibkan, mati maut dan dikebumikan. Turun ke dalam kerajaan maut. Pada hari yang ketiga bangkit pula dari antara orang mati. Baginda naik takhta ke syurga, dan menduduki tempat yang unggul di-sebelah kanan Tuhan Bapa. Dari situ, Baginda akan kembali untuk menghakimi umat manusia yang hidup mahupun yang telah mati.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen. Kami percayakan Roh Kudus, di dalam satu Ummah yang suci dan sedunia, di dalam silaturahim masyarakat suci yang erat di dalam pengampunan dosa, di dalam kebangkitan badan jasmani, dan akhirnya di dalam kehidupan yang kekal abadi. Amin

Thy Word | WORSHIP IN SONG

Words & Music: Amy Grant, Michael W. Smith ©1984 Meadowgreen Music Company, Curb Word Music

[Chorus]

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet
And a light unto my path
Thy word is a lamp unto my feet
And a light unto my path

When I feel afraid, think I've lost my way
Still You're there right beside me
Nothing will I fear as long as You are near
Please be near me to the end

[Chorus]

I will not forget Your love for me and yet
My heart forever is wandering
Jesus be my guide and hold me to Your side
Help me love You to the end

[Chorus]

WHAT WE BELIEVE

A creed (from the Latin word *credo*, "I believe") tells us who we are as Christians.

This particular creed has been around (in one form or another) for at least 1700 years. It is at the centre of what every Christian everywhere and everywhen has believed.

As we read this creed together, we are reminded that our **Slow, Small, Simple, Still** Church is just one tiny expression of a diverse global community that goes back thousands of years. This creed unites us with Christian men and women who were burned alive in Ancient Rome in 64 A.D., with Christian merchants who planted churches in Malaya and Indonesia during the 300's, with Christian monks who tamed the barbarians of Germany and Britain in the 800's, with persecuted and suffering believers in every corner of the globe today.

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 CONFESS SINS?

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

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

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

WORSHIP THROUGH CONFESSION

congregation sits down and reads the bold print aloud

Leviticus 18:5

"Keep my decrees and laws, for the person who obeys them will live by them. I am the Lord".

Let's pray together:

"Gracious Lord, we confess that we dishonor you in our words, thoughts, and deeds. Convinced of our wisdom, we stray from your path. Dependent on our strength, we stumble. Seeking our righteousness, we reject you. We turn our faces from you. We desire the things of the world to satisfy us. Lord, forgive our many sin. Cleanse the darkness from our lives, and turn our hearts back towards you. We pray these things in the name of your most precious son, Jesus Christ. 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 Heard the Voice of Jesus Say | SONG OF CONFESSION

Words: Horatius Bonar Music: Kevin Twit ©1998 Twit Music

I heard the voice of Jesus say
"Come unto me and rest
Lay down, O weary one lay down
Your head upon my breast"
I came to Jesus as I was
So weary, worn and sad
I found in Him my resting place
And he has made me glad

I heard the voice of Jesus say
"Behold I freely give
The living water; thirsty one
Stoop down and drink and live"
I came to Jesus and I drank
From that life-giving stream
My thirst was quenched, my soul revived
And now I live in Him

I heard the voice of Jesus say
"I am this dark world's light;
Look unto Me, thy morn. Shall rise
And all thy days be bright"
I looked to Jesus and I found
In Him my star, my sun;
And in that light of life I'll walk
'Til pilgrim days are done

[4] As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious,
 [5] you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood,
 to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

[6] For it stands in Scripture:

“Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious,
 and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

[7] So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe,

“The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,”

[8] and “A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense.”

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

[9] But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession,
 that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

[10] Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy,
 but now you have received mercy.

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**

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.

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!

Speak O Lord | SONG OF PREPARATION

Words & Music: Keith Getty & Stuart Townend ©2005 ThankYou Music

Speak, O Lord, as we come to you
To receive the food of your Holy Word.
Take your truth, plant it deep in us;
Shape and fashion us in your likeness,
That the light of Christ might be seen today
In our acts of love and our deeds of faith.
Speak, O Lord, and fulfill in us
All your purposes for your glory.

Teach us, Lord, full obedience,
Holy reverence, true humility;
Test our thoughts and our attitudes
In the radiance of your purity.
Cause our faith to rise; cause our eyes to see
Your majestic love and authority.
Words of pow'r that can never fail—
Let their truth prevail over unbelief.

Speak, O Lord, and renew our minds;
Help us grasp the heights of your plans for us—
Truths unchanged from the dawn of time
That will echo down through eternity.
And by grace we'll stand on your promises,
And by faith we'll walk as you walk with us.
Speak, O Lord, till your church is built
And the earth is filled with your glory.

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**

THE READING OF GOD'S WORD

Isaiah 40:6-8

[6] A voice says, "Cry!"

And I said, "What shall I cry?"

All flesh is grass,

and all its beauty is like the flower of the field.

[7] The grass withers, the flower fades

when the breath of the LORD blows on it;

surely the people are grass.

[8] The grass withers, the flower fades,

but the word of our God will stand forever.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

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.

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.

Because Christian worship is primarily a conversation between God and his people, some parts of the conversation may not make much sense to a visitor. And while our worship is not necessarily designed for non-family members, at the same time the bible tells us that we shouldn't look crazy to visitors either!

The purpose of well-organized and directed worship is so that family and visitors alike will be convinced that we are sinners, and that God is really among us (1 Corinthians 14:22-25). We have provided this worship guide so that we can all know what is going on and why.

OK. BUT...WHY PAPER?

Why not power-point or some other media? What about saving trees?

Well, using paper is a part of our commitment to keeping things small and personal in our Small Church. Obviously we value doing things together! but we also value individuality. The problem with power-point and most other mass-media is that we are all forced to interact with exactly the same material at the same time, all at the same speed. And the truth is: some of us are faster, some slower.

So it's not that we're against technology. We just think technology ought to serve us, and not the other way around. In this case, we believe that paper gives us all a little more freedom to be ourselves.

Last, we want you to know we would love to use recycled paper — but we have not yet found a local source. If you know of one, please hook us up! In the meantime, we are hoping that what we spend in trees is being saved in un-used electricity and lithium-ion batteries.

Comfort in the Stability of God's Word

Thy Word | WORSHIP IN SONG

Words & Music: Amy Grant, Michael W. Smith ©1984 Meadowgreen Music Company, Curb Word Music

[Chorus]

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet
And a light unto my path
Thy word is a lamp unto my feet
And a light unto my path

When I feel afraid, think I've lost my way
Still You're there right beside me
Nothing will I fear as long as You are near
Please be near me to the end

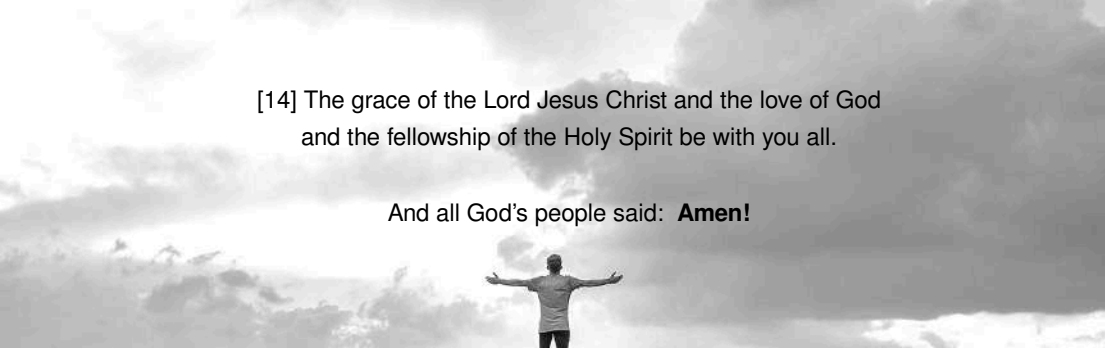
[Chorus]

I will not forget Your love for me and yet
My heart forever is wandering
Jesus be my guide and hold me to Your side
Help me love You to the end

[Chorus]

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!**

BLESSING

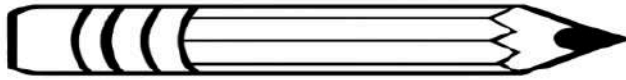
The benediction (meaning "Words of Blessing") is the close of our corporate conversation with God.

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?



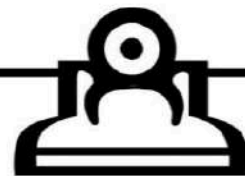
words you heard but don't know...

What is the main passage we are reading today?

Book:

Chapter:

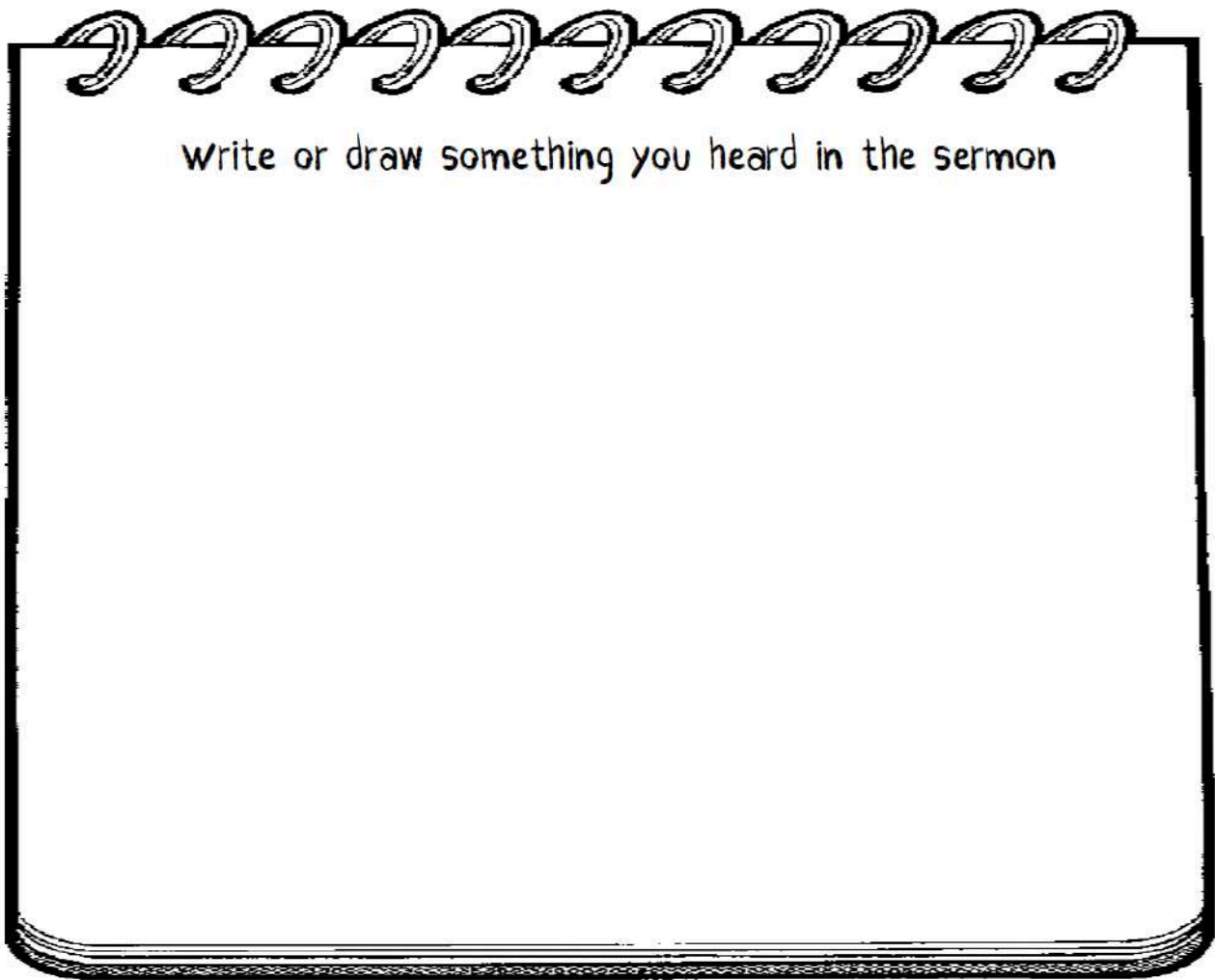
Verse:



What are we learning about God from this passage?



Favorite song today was:



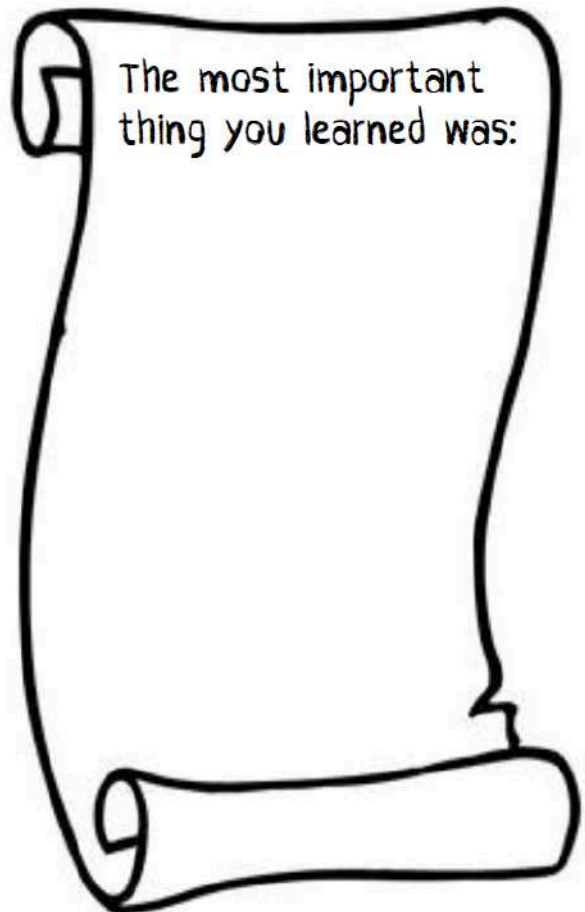
Write or draw something you heard in the sermon



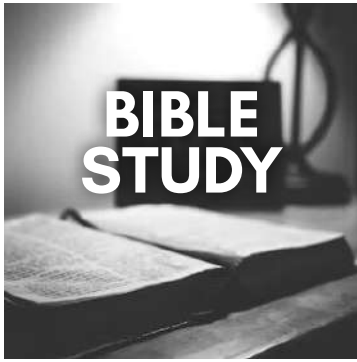
Questions?



How does today's message apply to your life?



The most important thing you learned was:



NO BIBLE STUDY

Bible study will be taking a break until further notice.



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