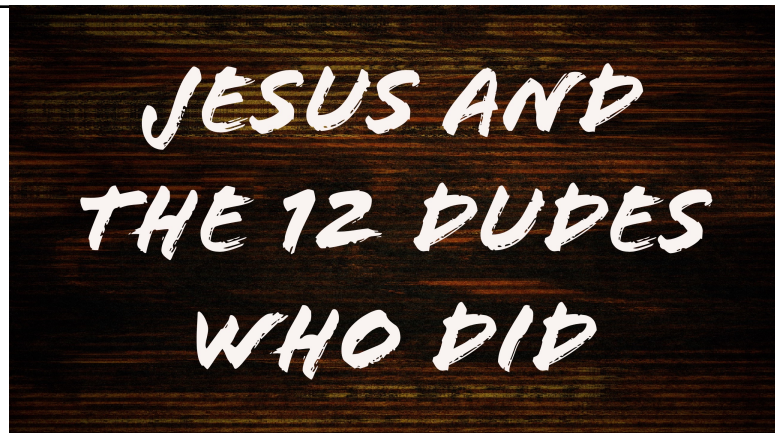


Graphics and Audio Notes

- There **will** be a sermon starter video.
- There **will** be notes and / or scripture to show on screen during the sermon.
- 9 a.m. worship service is a change in worship order from previous weeks.



Text highlighted in this way have a slide prepared to be on screen.

Text highlighted in this way are a reminder for Andrew during delivery.

Text highlighted in this way are direction for Andrew during delivery.

Key Questions

What is this sermon about?

This sermon is about James, John, and the power of worship.

Why is this sermon important?

It is important because worship has the power to transform our lives.

What is the good news?

The good news is that worship can change us. We become more like Christ.

What are the next action steps?

You are invited to be in worship every week.

What is the context of this sermon?

This sermon is part of our back to school worship series that is focusing on the life of the 12 apostles and our discipleship pathway.

Metadata

Topics

- Make Disciples
- Worship

Sermon Books of the Bible

- Luke
- Mark
- Matthew

Tags

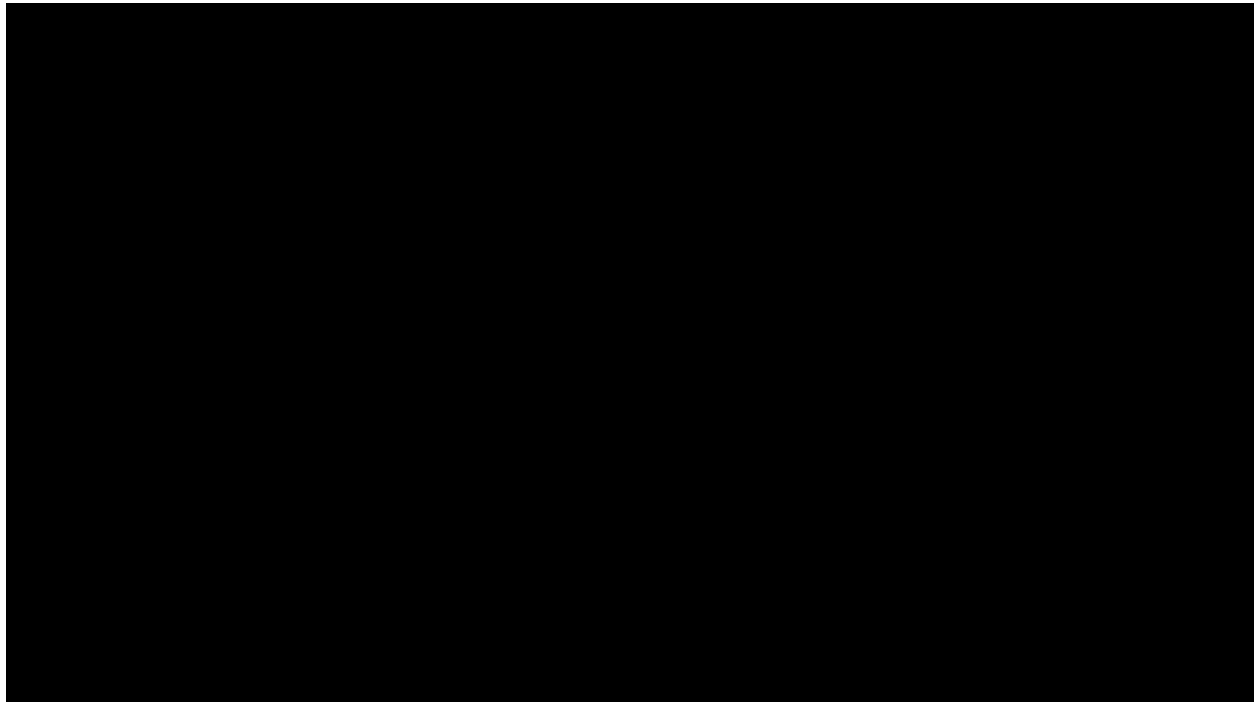
sermon, worship, church, Methodist, UnitedMethodist, UnitedMethodistChurch, FirstUnitedMethodistChurch, ElDorado, Kansas, GreatPlains, AnnualConference, GreatPlainsAnnualConference, disciples, apostles, discipleship, DiscipleshipPathway, James, John, worship

Sermon Audio

9 a.m. Worship

11 a.m. Worship

Sermon Video



Introduction **5**

Matthew 14:22-33, NRSV

Matthew 14:22-33, CEB

Response to Scripture

Sermon Starter Video

Opening Story **6**

Transition

Series Review

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James and John **7**

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Mark 16:1

Call to Follow Jesus

Key Scripture - Matthew 4:21-22

Sons of Thunder

Key Scripture - Luke 9:51–56

Other Stories

On the Water with Jesus

Key Scripture - Matthew 14:33

Transition

Worship **8**

Power of Worship

Transformation

Personal Example: God wants to Change Me

Worship is an Environment for Transformation

Others will Notice

Others may Question

Worship is like an Old Well

Worship brings humility

Worship is Sacred Time

Personal Example: Closer to God

Conclusion

10

Good News

Call to Action

Worship is powerful

Closing Prayer

Introduction

Matthew 14:22-33, NRSV

²²Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. ²³And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, ²⁴but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. ²⁵And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. ²⁶But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear.

²⁷But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid."

²⁸Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water."

²⁹He said, "Come."

So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. ³⁰But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!"

³¹Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" ³²When they got into the boat, the wind ceased.

³³And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

Matthew 14:22-33, CEB

²²Right then, Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go ahead to the other side of the lake while he dismissed the crowds. ²³When he sent them away, he went up onto a mountain by himself to pray. Evening came and he was alone. ²⁴Meanwhile, the boat, fighting a strong headwind, was being battered by the waves and was already far away from land. ²⁵Very early in the morning he came to his disciples, walking on the lake. ²⁶When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified and said, "It's a ghost!" They were so frightened they screamed.

²⁷Just then Jesus spoke to them, "Be encouraged! It's me. Don't be afraid."

²⁸Peter replied, "Lord, if it's you, order me to come to you on the water."

²⁹And Jesus said, "Come."

Then Peter got out of the boat and was walking on the water toward Jesus. ³⁰But when Peter saw the strong wind, he became frightened. As he began to sink, he shouted, "Lord, rescue me!"

³¹Jesus immediately reached out and grabbed him, saying, "You man of weak faith! Why did you begin to have doubts?" ³²When they got into the boat, the wind settled down.

³³Then those in the boat worshipped Jesus and said, "You must be God's Son!"

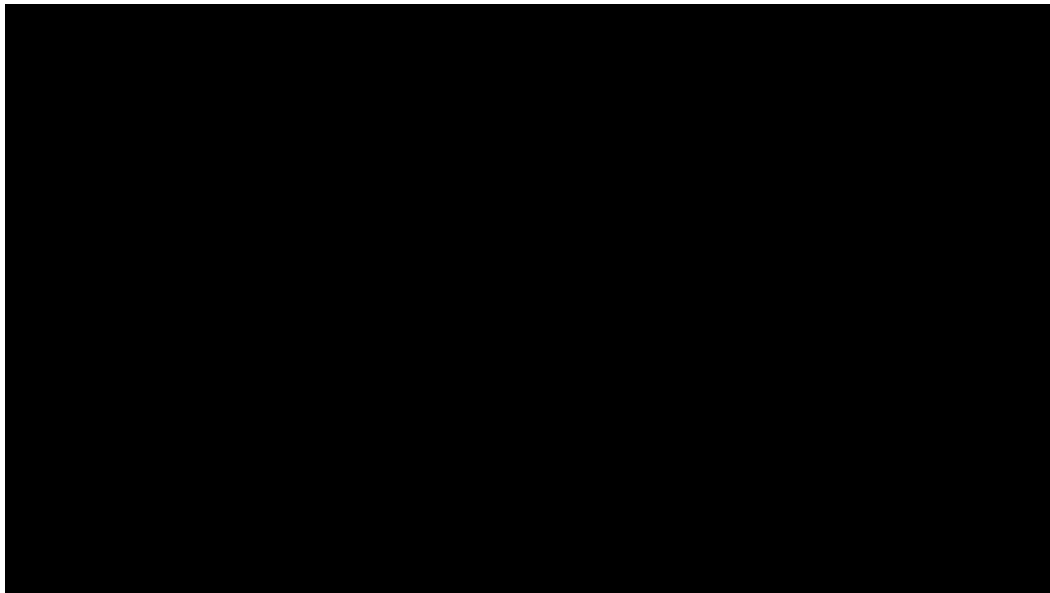
Response to Scripture

One: The word of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon Starter Video

Play sermon starter video.



Opening Story

[Text here]

Transition

[Text here]

Series Review

Discipleship Pathway

During this worship series, we are focusing on our discipleship pathway, which is this:

We live as disciples of Jesus Christ as we worship, grow, give, serve and share.

These are expectations for our members and invitations to all people to experience life as a follower of Jesus Christ. There are many ways to live a faithful life. This is how we live as Christians here at First United Methodist Church.

Jesus and the 12 Dudes Who Did

We will be taking a closer look at the lives and stories of the 12 apostles who shared life with Jesus during his public ministry in the ancient near east. We will be

looking for lessons that we can learn from them that can teach us about living as a follower of Jesus Christ.

James and John

Parents

James and John were sons of Zebedee and Salome. Zebedee was a fisherman on the Sea of Galilee and was wealthy enough to have employees in their business.¹

Key Scripture - Mark 15:40

Their mother, Salome, is mentioned by name as being present at Jesus tomb in Mark 15:

“Some women were watching from a distance, including Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James (the younger one) and Joses, and Salome.”²

Mark 16:1

She is also mentioned as one of the women who were present at the resurrection in Mark 16:

“When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they could go and anoint Jesus’ dead body.”³

Call to Follow Jesus

Key Scripture - Matthew 4:21-22

James and are described as one of the first disciples to join Jesus. We hear the story in Matthew 4:21-22:

“Continuing on, he saw another set of brothers, James the son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat with Zebedee their father repairing their nets. Jesus called them and immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.”⁴

Sons of Thunder

Key Scripture - Luke 9:51–56

“As the time approached when Jesus was to be taken up into heaven, he determined to go to Jerusalem. He sent messengers on ahead of him. Along the way,

¹ Wikipedia contributors, "James, son of Zebedee," Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia, https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=James,_son_of_Zebedee&oldid=792247719 (accessed August 20, 2017).

² Mark 15:40, CEB.

³ Mark 16:1, CEB.

⁴ Matthew 4:21-22, CEB.

they entered a Samaritan village to prepare for his arrival, but the Samaritan villagers refused to welcome him because he was determined to go to Jerusalem. When the disciples James and John saw this, they said, "Lord, do you want us to call fire down from heaven to consume them?" But Jesus turned and spoke sternly to them, and they went on to another village."⁵

The passion of James and John as shown in this passage, may have been how they earned their nickname - "Sons of Thunder."

Other Stories

James and John often appear together in the gospels. Several key stories which involve James and John include:

- Resurrection of Jairus' daughter
- Witness Jesus' transfiguration
- Ask Jesus for places of honor

On the Water with Jesus

They were almost certainly on the boat in the passage of scripture that was read a few moments ago.

They saw Jesus walking on the water.

They saw their friend, Peter, get out of the boat and walk toward Jesus.

They were there when Peter and Jesus got into the boat and the wind ceased.

Key Scripture - Matthew 14:33

When we read in Matthew 14:33

³³Then those in the boat worshipped Jesus and said, "You must be God's Son!"

Transition

What does it mean to worship Jesus?

What were James, John, and the other disciples doing here?

How do we worship today?

Worship

Power of Worship

When we gather for worship, it is like sprinkling with water or cultivating the hard soil in our soul.

We pause to recognize that God is God and we are not.

We listen for God's word for us in song, scripture and sermon.

We open or deepen a connection between God's heart and our own.

Transformation

God uses the power of worship to transform us.

⁵ Luke 9:51-56, CEB.

When we take time to focus on Christ, something happens in our life that is fundamentally good. Something changes in us. The soil of our soul is transformed.

Personal Example: God wants to Change Me

I believe that God is actually trying to change me.

I like to pretend that I have it all put together and sometimes I even feel that way.

The truth is, I don't have it all together

There are times when I ignore the needs of others, put my desires ahead of everything else and don't really care about those that are in need.

God desires more for me. God desires more for you.

God invites us to fall in perfect love with him and our neighbors.

Worship is one of the ways that God's grace works in our life to continue to bring about that transformation.

We will never become all that God dreams for us unless we worship.

Worship is an Environment for Transformation

Being in worship every week unless you are sick or out of town is our invitation.

Being here in this place,

being among these people,

intentionally listening for God,

offering ourselves back to God

all these things help create the environment for transformation to occur in our lives.

Others will Notice

When you live in this way, with worship as a regular part of your life, others notice – family members, friends, co-workers.

It may be the change in your Sunday morning routine,

perhaps others see the way that you are living your life differently.

Others may Question

Some people may think you are crazy.

Why in the world would you give up your Sunday morning to do that? to go there?

Because I know that I'm not yet all I could be and when I come to worship, I leave a little bit different.

Encouraged. Strengthened. Ready for the week.

Worship is like an Old Well

Worship is like that old well.

People have been gathering to worship God for hundreds and thousands of years.

People have been gathering here in this sanctuary for decades to worship.

Worship brings humility

When we worship, we come into God's presence and declare God to be God. Worship brings humility. We are not at the center of the universe. People have come before us and others will come after us.

God is so big. We humble ourselves in response to the awesomeness of God.

Worship is Sacred Time

Worship is a beautiful place to meet God.

It is a sacred time.

It is a moment that is set apart.

Personal Example: Closer to God

I know that God is with me all the time, and yet, it seems that during worship I experience God in a way that is meaningful and significant. Somehow different than every day.

This happens when we place ourselves close to the most good and righteous being in the universe. This sanctuary was built to remind us that God is close. The stained glass, the soaring ceilings - just being in this place reminds us that when we gather for worship, God is close at hand.

When we worship, we come to know the transcendent, beautiful and all that is good. We come close to God.

Conclusion

Good News

The good news is that worship can change us. We become more like Christ.

Call to Action

My invitation for you is to be in worship every week.

Take a chance on worship being a priority for you.

Invite a friend to join you for worship, as we consider what it means to worship, grow, give, serve and share.

Allow worship to bring humility and closeness to God.

Worship is powerful

People come each week and may need courage, comfort, assurance, forgiveness, grace, encouragement, conviction. Lives can be changed just because they gather to worship.

Worship is powerful. It is beautiful, a respite from the rest of the world, and a place to be revitalized and recharged.

When we worship we give ourselves to God.

Closing Prayer

Jesus, I am sorry for all the times in my life when I mess up.

And if anything comes to mind, ask God's forgiveness.

Forgive me of my sin and all that I know is wrong.

Thank you that you died on the cross and rose for me.

I trust you with my life.

Help me receive your forgiveness.

Please fill me with your Spirit and help me to follow you.

In your holy name, Amen.