

Today's Worship Service

PRAISE

Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; worship the Lord in the splendor of holiness. (Psalm 29:2)

Call To Worship Amy Wolfe, Interim Director of Worship Arts
["Who You Say I Am"](#) Fielding, Morgan
Welcome & Announcements Pastor Ryan Boyer

RENEWAL

As far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us. (Psalm 103:12)

Prayer of Confession Pastor Ryan Boyer
Assurance of Grace Pastor Ryan Boyer
["Before The Throne"](#) Shane
["Speak O Lord"](#) Getty, Townend

PROCLAMATION

Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths. (Psalm 25:4)

Reading of the Word [John 6:60-71](#)

Reader: This is God's Word for us today.

All: Thanks be to God.

Preaching of the Word Pastor Mike Matheson

RESPONSE

*Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you.
(Psalm 63:3)*

["Jesus is Better"](#) Ivey, Land
Benediction Pastor Mike Matheson

Sermon Notes

Preacher: Pastor Mike Matheson

Sermon: Some Things Are Really Hard to Hear

Scripture: [John 6:60-71](#)

Date: May 17, 2020

Sermon Review Discussion Questions

These questions are for *after* the sermon and can be used for Life Group discussion, one-to-one discipleship, or personal reflection and application.

As we come to the conclusion of John 6, we read two wholly different responses to Jesus' hard words spoken in the previous section ([6:24-59](#)). Some who identified themselves as disciples (or followers other than the Twelve) of Christ decided to turn back and no longer walk with him ([vs. 66](#)). To them, Jesus' words landed like death. Sadly, we read similar accounts today—from celebrities down to our loved ones—those who once identified with Christ decide to turn the other direction and walk away. Right after this, Peter declares the Twelve's allegiance to Jesus, for he has the words of eternal life. What is our response supposed to be to these accounts? How will you respond to Jesus and his hard words?

Discussion Questions

1. Is it hard for you to hear about someone walking away from Jesus? What are the various responses people might have when hearing deconversion stories? What are some unhelpful responses to these accounts? How can we benefit from processing them?
2. What were the hard teachings that Jesus spoke in the previous section ([6:24-59](#))? What is your initial reaction to them? What is at stake if all Jesus' sayings were easy to hear and believe? How important is it for us to honestly process Jesus' words and claims?
3. Some are offended by Jesus' words whereas others receive them as life. What is it that makes the difference? What roles do the Father and Holy Spirit have in those receiving Jesus' words as life? How might this impact our attitude toward sharing the gospel?
4. What is your response to the crowd walking away from Jesus? Why might some say this shows flaws in Jesus' message? What are specific steps we can take to minister to those who have turned away from the faith? Take time to pray for those who fit into this camp.
5. How does the Twelve's response differ from the crowd? How is their understanding of Jesus and his message different from the crowd? What are ways we might be tempted to boast in our salvation? What might we learn from the disciples to check our own hearts?

2020 Vacation Bible School Update

As we try to wisely navigate a way forward with summer plans, the children's ministry team has decided to postpone our 2020 VBS plans. These weeks apart have meant that we are behind on planning, and with so many unknowns as to what June looks like here in Wisconsin, it is best not to gather for our normal VBS during the last week of June. However, we are working and praying as a team to plan an alternative option for later in the summer (likely mid-August). More news about that will be coming in later weeks as we gain a clearer picture of what summer looks like around here.

We know that this is yet another disappointment in this season, but are thankful that we can worship and learn about Jesus wherever we are! I've been reflecting on the words of James 4:13-15 this week, and never have they seemed more apropos than in this season of waiting. May we wait on the Lord and rejoice and be glad in the days He has made.

Please pray for healing and recovery for those hospitalized or recently discharged: Mitch Leitzke, Shawn Skenadore

Our heartfelt love, sympathy, and prayers to Jim & Linda Martinich on the passing of Jim's mother, Betty Martinich.

On the passing of James Leonard, we extend our sympathies to his son, Kaiden Leonard and mother, Janelle (Jose) Reyes.

If you have something that is weighing you down today, share your request on the online connection card and our prayer team will lift you up to the Lord.

graceinracine.com/connectcard

*Are you hurting? Everyone needs help from time to time. We're here to help.
Contact the Care Team at 632.2111, care@graceinracine.com*

Last Week: Livestream Attendance: 270 households

Giving: Last Week: \$19,443 YTD: \$588,839 +/- Budget: \$14,010

Here are some key words to listen for in the sermon. Make a mark every time you hear these words:

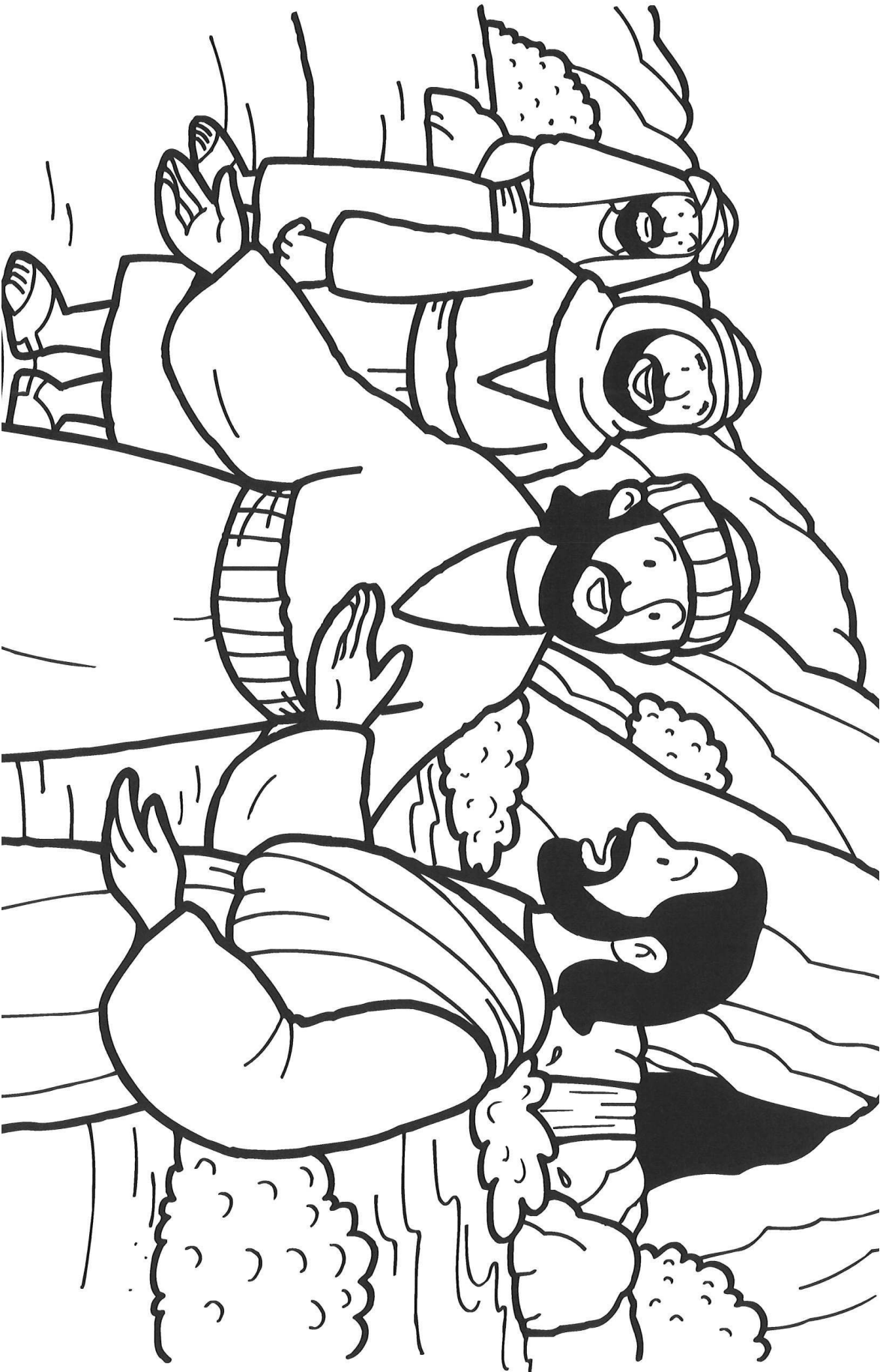
HEAR

SPRIT

LIFE

FAITH

WORDS



Some Things Are Hard to Hear

Use a copy of the English Standard Version (ESV) of the Bible to fill in the missing words below from John 6:66-70. Then listen to the message and fill in the outline below.

" _____ this many of his _____ turned _____ and no longer walked _____ Him. So Jesus said to the _____, 'Do you want to go _____ as well?' Simon _____ answered him, ' _____, to _____ shall we _____? You have the _____ of _____ life, and we have _____ and have come to _____, that you are the _____ One of _____.'" Jn 6:66-70

OUTLINE OF TODAY'S PASSAGE

- I. Jesus' words are _____ to _____ (v. 60)
- II. Jesus' words are _____ to some and _____ to others (v. 61-65)
- III. Jesus' words _____ our very _____ (v. 66-71)
- IV. _____ if you don't _____ it? (v. 41-51)
- V. _____ you actually _____ it? (v. 52-59)



AFTER THE SERMON ACTIVITY

Find/print off some age-appropriate mazes for your children. Talk about how a maze works: how many ways are there to get through a maze? [One] Where do all the other paths end? [In a Dead End]. Can mazes be frustrating? Why? [Yes—because they are difficult and it's often hard to find the right way through] Review this Sunday's passage as a family, many of those who had been following Jesus turned away. They thought that what Jesus was asking was too hard, that it was not worth what Jesus was asking to keep following Him. They turned away from the one way! Just like in a maze, the Bible tells us that turning away from the One Way (Jesus) will always end in a death. But Peter correctly identifies the answer to this problem in today's passage—he realizes that there is One Way through the maze of life, one way that leads to eternal life, that way is Jesus and His Word!



REVIEW TODAY'S MESSAGE BY DISCUSSING THESE QUESTIONS AS A FAMILY:

1. WHAT HAPPENED IN TODAY'S BIBLE PASSAGE? RETELL IT AS BEST YOU CAN IN YOUR OWN WORDS. WHAT ARE SOME THINGS YOU REMEMBER JESUS SAYING?
2. THE DISCIPLES TELL JESUS IN THIS PASSAGE THAT HE SAYS HARD THINGS. WHAT ARE SOME THINGS THAT JESUS HAS SAID THAT YOU FIND DIFFICULT EITHER TO UNDERSTAND, HARD TO BELIEVE, OR HARD TO OBEY? WHAT IS HARD FOR YOU ABOUT FOLLOWING JESUS? WHO HAS JESUS SENT TO HELP HIS FRIENDS WITH THAT?
3. THESE PAST COUPLE OF MONTHS HAVE BEEN DIFFICULT. WHAT ABOUT JESUS HAS MADE THESE DAYS EASIER FOR YOU AND INCREASED YOUR TRUST IN HIM? WHAT ABOUT THESE DAYS HAS MADE IT HARDER FOR YOU TO TRUST JESUS? TAKE SOME TIME TO PRAY ABOUT BOTH SITUATIONS.

