



Sunday Worship Services at 9am
In-Person in the Sanctuary,
Live Online,
(YouTube, Facebook, reedleymbc.org)
and On Demand after 1pm on Monday

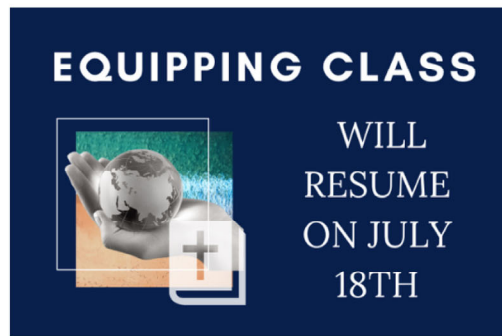
Children's Church
Ages 3 through 1st Grade

1362 L Street Reedley CA
Phone (559) 638-8123
Prayer Line (559) 743-7808
www.reedleymbc.org

CONTACT US!
WE'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU

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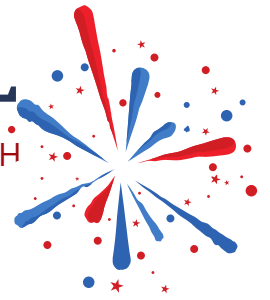
For more details on these or additional RMBC Ministries: check the App, Website, or contact the church office at (559) 638-8123. Further details can also be found in today's Journal.





RMBC JOURNAL

REEDLEY MENNONITE BRETHREN CHURCH



WELCOME

Welcome to Reedley MB. We're pleased to have you join us today for our worship service. It's our prayer that you will meet the living God in this place as we hear from the Word of God. We are here to **GLORIFY** God, **GROW** together as equipped disciples of Jesus Christ, and **GO** proclaiming His gospel to all. If you have any questions, please ask, check out our app, or stop by The Welcome Center on our main lawn.
Malcolm Light, Senior Pastor

SERMON MATERIALS

Each week, Pastor Malcolm sends out sermon materials ahead of Sunday's sermon. You can find them on our App or if you'd like to receive these in your email, please contact the Church Office.

UPCOMING EVENTS

We have upcoming events! Don't miss out: check the RMBC Website, App, and online Bulletin.

CONTACT DETAILS

Office: 559-638-8123
Email: kelly@reedleymbc.org
Website: www.reedleymbc.org
Address: 1362 L Street
Reedley, CA 93654

WORSHIP TODAY

SUNDAY - HAPPY 4TH OF JULY!

Today we'll look at a psalm which asks us to consider who we should turn to for life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Our text will be Psalm 146. We encourage you to bring a friend with you to worship or invite a friend to join you online for worship!

If you are visiting with us today, we encourage you to download our app (search: reedleymbc), visit our website (reedleymbc.org), or visit our Welcome Center where you can get more information and a gift.

Join the 5 Day Bible Reading Challenge!

This week's passages: Week 27

Day 1: 1 Kings 10-11; 2 Chr 9; 1 Timothy 4

Day 2: Eccl 1-3; Psalm 45; 2 Tim 1

Day 3: Eccl 4-6; Psalm 125; 2 Tim 2

Day 4: Eccl 7-9; Psalm 46; 2 Tim 3

Day 5: Eccl 10-12; 2 Tim 4

OPPORTUNITIES

PRAYER OPPORTUNITIES

Sunday Morning Prayer - Meets in Pastor Malcolm's office at 8:15am.

Wednesday Morning Prayer - Meets at 6:30am in the Fellowship Hall. Come and join us as we seek the Lord for our church, our community, and our world.

MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

Missionary of the Week: **Sam Estes** serving with City Advance.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dan & Pam Ascanio announce the marriage of their daughter **Sadie to Vincent Regier**, son of **Bryan & Heather Regier**, this Saturday July 10, 2021.

The flowers in front have been placed by the family of **Dean & Lucille Kliewer** in honor of their 65th Wedding Anniversary which was June 29th.

Thank you, **from Sheila Penner**, to the dozens of volunteers who assisted with Hospitality Ministry during VBS week! Each of you were such a blessing to see serving wherever needed. We fed leaders and families each night of VBS and had a terrific turn out for the picnic Sunday at Hillcrest. You are amazing!

STEWARDSHIP

6/27/2021 - Attendance 542 & Picnic 350
YTD Goal 1,541,118
YTD Deficit 43,799

GIVING @ RMBC

- Text reedleymbc to 1-888-364-4483
- reedleymbc.org > Give
- RMBC App > Giving
- U S Postal Service
- Office, M-F, 8:30-5pm



OPPORTUNITIES

Lost & Found - Did you happen to leave a Bible, jacket, or mug at church? Stop by the rack on the northeast corner of the church green this morning to see if any of the items belong to you or a friend.

RiverLife - You are invited to join us down by the river every other week on Thursday nights. Bring your own food, drinks, blankets, chairs, games, and friends!

The schedule will be as follows:

6:00-7:00 pm Food and Games

7:00-7:15 pm Worship in Singing

7:15-7:45 pm Teaching

8:00 - Ice Cream/Social Time/Games

Dates: July 15 and 29

Location: 9587 Kings River Road Reedley

Scholarship Donation Opportunity

Would you like to help send youth to camp or go on mission trips? Scholarships and service credit are a great way to help our youth afford to attend camp or go on a mission trip. We invite you to donate through the RMBC App or by calling the office today!

MB Foundation is hosting a webinar, Your Money Making An Impact, on Tuesday, July 13 at 11am.

Hear stories of Kingdom impact as your investment dollars are helping ministries reach their full ministry potential, Register at www.mbfoundation.com/yourmoneymakinganimpact.

Creative Donations to Missions - Ladies if you have any jewelry that you no longer need and your children don't want, please consider donating it to Marjorie Ekk's Thrift Store in Portugal. Place items in a ziplock bag and bring them to the church office. Marjorie picked up over fifty pounds from RMBC already. We will continue to collect jewelry until September 1st.

MEN'S MINISTRY

Forged Bible Study: Tuesdays, 6-7am in SC 100

Cross Trainers Basketball: Wednesdays, 7pm, Immanuel

Men's Group: Thursdays at noon in the Student Center

Pickleball: Thursdays at 7pm, at the RMBC Court

Contact mike@reedleymbc.org for more information on Men's Ministries

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Nursery is available for children birth through Age 2 in the Children's Center. **Children's Church** is available for kids 3 years old - 1st grade in SC200. Children will meet in the breezeway when dismissed from the service.

Sunday School - Age 3 through 6th grade meet upstairs in the Student Center at 10:40am. **To allow our teachers time to prepare their classrooms for the children, please do not send them to the Student Center until 10:35am.** Check in children prior to church service in the breezeway or after service on the 1st floor of the Student Center.

Contact tanya@reedleymbc.org for more information on Children's Ministries

ROOTED STUDENT MINISTRIES

Hartland Summer Camp

All camps are waitlisted but students can still sign up on the RMBC website and App. Preteen Camp is July 25-30, Junior High is July 4-9, and High School is July 18-23.

Wipeout Wednesday Swim Nights

JH & HS students will be continuing the Wednesday night swim nights. Watch your weekly email for specific details.

Contact joel@reedleymbc.org for more information on Rooted Student Ministries

COLLEGE & YOUNG ADULTS MINISTRIES

Summer Tuesday Nights at Anthony & Sheri's house every Tuesday night at 6pm. We will notify you of any changes.

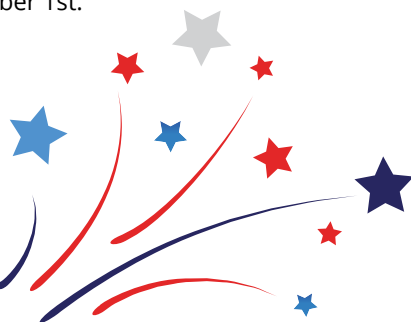
Contact Anthony (284-1875) or Todd (859-8900) for details on College & Young Adults Ministries.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

MOMS 2021 - MOMS 2021-22 leadership team is making tentative plans to begin Bible Fellowship on Thursday, August 26.

MOMS Bible Study will be "Truthfilled," a study of Colossians by Ruth Chou Simons to begin Thursday September 2. Prayers for God's direction would be appreciated.

WOW 2021 - Community Bible Study will resume this Fall on Tuesday, September 7th.



Hallelujah

Psalm 146

How often do you think about praise? How often do you consider what it means to praise? Praise is something, we often just do, but don't give much thought to. And that's not meant as a condemnation on us, I see that as more of a reflection of the image of God in us as human beings. God created man for man to give Him praise, and even in our sinfully fallen state, there remains a penchant to praise God within every human being. But sometimes our praise can go off the rails, can become misplaced, or can be overwhelmed by the pressures and challenges of life. Praise is a part of who we are, and is especially true of us as God's redeemed, rescued, and regenerated people in Christ. Praise to God as God's people should come as effortlessly from us as breathing. It's to be our natural and unending response to the God of creation who has rescued our souls from the eternal judgment of Hell.

To understand praise, I think it might be helpful to quickly run through a couple of words the Bible uses that we translate praise in our English bibles. There are seven Hebrew words for praise in the Old Testament, each carrying slight contours of what it means for us to praise God, and live lives of praise.

Tehillah (teh-he-lah) is the word for praise used to describe praise in the form of a song. Psalm 100:4 uses the word and says, *"Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name!"*

Related to tehillah is the word Zamar, which is used to describe praise to God using a musical instrument with or without singing. Psalm 33:2 uses zamar when it says, *"Give thanks to the Lord with the lyre; Sing praises to Him with a harp of ten strings."*

There is also the word todah, which talks of the gathered community of God coming together to sing to Him. The prophet Jeremiah comforts God's exiled people with the promise that in time they will again sing together God's praises in Jerusalem. Jeremiah 33:10-11 says, *"Yet in the towns of Judah and the streets of Jerusalem that are deserted, inhabited by neither men nor animals, there will be heard once more the sounds of joy and gladness, the voices of bride and bridegroom, and the voices of those who bring thank offerings (sacrifice of praise) to the house of the LORD"*.

A fourth word used in Hebrew to talk about praise is yadah. Yadah is used when trying to communicate the lifting of arms upward in praise and surrender. Psalm 42:5 uses yadah asking, *"Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you in turmoil within me? Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my salvation and my God."*

Sabah is another word for praise used when reaching out with affection for God or calling out for God's presence is in view. Psalm 145:4 demonstrates this saying, *"One generation shall praise Your works to another, and shall declare Your mighty acts."*

The last two words translated praise in the Old Testament build off one another. Halal is the most prolific word translated praise in the Old Testament, used 96 times. It conveys the idea of boasting, and boasting to the point of looking foolish; of making a show of whatever you are praising. Psalm 119:175 captures this idea of making a show of God in our praise saying, *"Let my soul live and praise you, and let your rules help me."*

And the final word used for praise in the Old Testament is the word we find in Psalm 146 that our text is built around. Hallelujah combines the word Hallel with part of God's proper name, Yahweh, to form hallelujah, or as we are more familiar with it – Praise the LORD. Psalm 146 opens and closes with Hallelujah, verse 1, Praise the LORD and verse 10, Praise the LORD. As a matter of fact, the final five psalms of the Psalter, psalms 146-150 are known as the Hallelujah Psalms, as they each begin and end with Hallelujah.

And all this leads me to this question, what does it mean to praise? As simply as I can state it, **praise means to give thanks and honor to one who is worthy of it.** Psalm 146 points gives us instruction and reasons for hallelujah!, for praising the Lord, for giving thanks and honor to the One who is alone worthy of it. Psalm 146 gives us four

instructions for praise, a call to praise, obstacles to praise, our means to praise, and enlightenment of praise. In all of this we are being invited to come and center our lives in praise of the Lord who has saved us. Let's take a look.

The first instruction we find is **the call to praise**. Verse 1, "*Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD, O my soul!*" Psalm 146 begins with a call to **praise corporately**. The psalmist calls all of God's people to come together in praise of God. Friends, this is not only a good thing that we come together regularly in worship, it's the call of God's faithful to do so. The New Testament echoes this in Hebrews 10:25 imploring Christians to, "... *not neglect to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.*" Our corporate praise together is a gift.

But, the psalmist does not call others to do what he is unwilling to do on his own. We have corporate praise and also **individual praise**. Verse 2, "*I will praise the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.*" Not only do we come in community, we come as an individual, tuning and setting our own hearts and minds to the praise of God. God's people come as corporate individuals to praise and honor, thank and glorify Him for all that He is and has done. We do well friends, to work in our private lives attitudes and actions of praise; they are more genuine and of more value when we come together with the people of God to praise Him as we are prepared and readied for what we will do for all eternity in His presence.

Rather abruptly, the call to praise is briefly interrupted by pointing out **the obstacle to praise**. Verse 3, "*Put not your trust in princes, in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation.*" While we are called to praise God, and to praise and worship Him alone, it can be easy to get distracted and focus on our immediate situation and move our trust and attention from God and focus it on man. I think it's appropriate as we gather together on this Independence Day, to be thankful for the country God has blessed us with, but to acknowledge the limitations of human government and leadership. Because trust in man, which we are all prone to, has some devastating effects. **First, trust in man dishonors God**. When we put our trust in man, we are often putting man, human beings, in a place that God alone is to occupy. God is dishonored when man is exalted, is given position, authority, and praise that is to be reserved for God alone. Trust in man dishonors God, because man can give no salvation. Human beings, for all our strength, all our ingenuity, all our planning and ability, our cunning and resourcefulness – we can neither save ourselves nor others. We can all too easily look to a king, or a president, or congressman or senator, or a sports figure, or a celebrity – take your pick, and shift our trust away from God and on to man.

But this dishonors God, and not only that, **trust in man degrades you**. What I mean by degrades is that trust in man lowers you, it limits what is available to you. Again, the end of verse 3 is a haunting trust we need to take seriously, in human beings, in man, there is no salvation. Putting our trust in man is like a beggar asking another beggar for a loan; or the blind leading the blind. The person may have president, king, or pastor before their name, but in the end titles bring no salvation and no help.

Which shows us the third reason trust in man becomes an obstacle to praise – **trust in man disappoints in every case**. We could spend the rest of the day and in to the next several sharing our stories of disappointment in people. I have them, you have them, I'm likely the main character in some of your stories. And that is why we don't put our trust or praise in men; those who as verse 4 soberly says, depart, decay, and are defeated. Verse 4, "*When his breath departs, he returns to the earth; on that very day his plans perish.*"

Having called out the obstacle to praise, the psalmist turns our attention back to the main point, and tells of the **means of praise**. verse 5, "*Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD his God*". This is the last beatitude we find in the psalter, and this blessing is a simple reminder of the Bible's overarching message. **True blessing in life comes on as we know the God of the Bible and are also known by the God of the Bible**. The God of Jacob is the God of the covenant – in the Old Testament God is often reminding us as His people that He is the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. The God of Jacob is the God of wrestling prayer and the God of the tried believer. He is the only living and true God. The God of Jacob appeared to Moses, and led the tribes of Jacob out of Egypt and through the wilderness. Those are happy, those are blessed who trust Him, for they shall never be ashamed or confused. Why? Because unlike man, the Lord never dies, neither do His thoughts perish: His purpose of mercy, like Himself, endures throughout all generations. Is that not a reason to cry Hallelujah! But we are left with the question – do you know the God of Jacob? Do you know the God of the Bible

who alone is your salvation, who alone is your peace, who alone is your hope, and joy, and life? Do you trust in Him alone? Do you know Jesus, the living embodiment of God in the flesh, who alone is able to take away your sin, who lived the righteous life demanded of you, and died the sacrificial death you could never die; Jesus who was resurrected in vindicating glory, who is now seated at the right hand of the Father having accomplished and completed His work of salvation. My friend, do you know Jesus Christ, do you know the God of Jacob, and are you known by Him? Is your hope for today and your future in the God of Jacob, in the Lord Jesus Christ, or are you putting your hope in whoever is going to be the next governor, or senator, or president, or some other human being? Blessed is He whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD his God.

Psalms 146, a psalm which calls us to praise God alone, to avoid and turn from the great obstacle to praise – trust in man, shows us the only means of praise is faith and trust alone in the God of Jacob the living God of the Bible, bids us come and be **enlightened on the subject of praise**. Verse 6-10 layout no less than 10 reasons God is to be praised. They're organized under two categories. **First, praise God for who He is.** Verse 6, "... *who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, who keeps faith forever; who executes justice for the oppressed*". God is the creator and sustainer God. We look at this beautiful world God has created, filled with life, perfectly created for the flourishing and sustaining of life. And friend, as you look at this world God has made to sustain you Jesus tells us that He is also preparing a place for us, a new heaven and a new earth, the God who has made a heaven for us, is also making us fit for heaven through Christ. Praise Him!

God keeps faith forever, meaning when God makes a promise, though in our estimation of time it may seem to long or far off or to not come when we want, in the fullness of time God always fulfills His promise, our God who is the eternal living God will keep His promises forever, He can always be trusted. Praise Him!

And our God is the just and righteous judge. Church, we should praise God that He is just, but not just in our estimation and desire of justice. We are often vengeful and vindictive in our search for justice; wanting others to feel and know the pain for themselves that they have caused us. Praise God that is not how He mediates justice and judgment. The scriptures tell us that our God is patient, not treating us as our sins deserve, but marrying His justice with mercy and grace. God will not be mocked, His justice and judgement will come, it's not always in this life, but it is sure to come. So praise Him! Praise God for who He is.

And praise God for what He does. Verse 7, "... *who gives food to the hungry. The LORD sets the prisoners free; the LORD opens the eyes of the blind. The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous. The LORD watches over the sojourners; he upholds the widow and the fatherless, but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.*" If you look at your notes, I've summarized the seven areas the psalmist calls us to give praise to God for what He has done. But I want to draw your attention quickly to Luke 4. Luke 4 is early in Jesus' earthly ministry. He is in His hometown of Nazareth, worshipping as He did on the Sabbath in His home synagogue. I'll pick it up in Luke 4:16, "*And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. And as was his custom, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and he stood up to read. And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written, 'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.'*" And he rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. And he began to say to them, "*Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.*" Friends, if we want to see God at work, at tangible, observable work, we need only look at Jesus. He is the image of the invisible God, He is the One who does works as He sees His father working. So praise Him! Praise Him for your food, your work, your family, your friends. Praise Him for your salvation, that your sins have been removed, that the veil of unbelief has been pulled back. Praise Him for the healing He brings when you are hurting and the salve He applies when the injury lingers. Praise Him for His love for you, praise Him for His protection over you, praise Him when evil is frustrated. Praise Him in all things, at all times, and in all ways. But, live out Christian what you see and know your Lord does. BE the reason another will praise God as well. BE the conduit, BE the instrument God uses to feed, and pardon, and reveal, and heal, and love, and frustrate.

May our souls sing and cry Hallelujah! Praise the LORD on this day and all that follow.

Hallelujah!
Psalm 146

Pastor
Malcolm July
4, 2021

Background:

Psalms 146-150 are called the "Hallelujah Psalms"

Hallelujah combines the word praise (hallel), with part of God's proper name (Yahweh) – translation, "praise the Lord or praise God"

Praise means to give _____ and _____ to one who is _____ of it

Four Instructions for Praise

1. The _____ to Praise (vs. 1-2)

We are to praise God _____

We are to praise God _____

2. The _____ of Praise (vs.

- Trust in man _____
- Trust in man _____
- Trust in man _____ in every case

3. The _____ of Praise (vs. 5)

_____ and being _____ by God

4. The _____ of Praise (vs. 6-10)

Praise God for _____ He is

- God is creator and sustainer (6a)
- God is faithful and truthful (6b)
- God is just and merciful (7a)

Praise God for _____ He does

- God nourishes the needy (7b)
- God pardons the prisoner (7c)
- God makes visible the veiled (8a)
- God heals the hurting (8b)
- God raises the loved righteous (8c)
- God protects the powerless (9a)
- God frustrates the fiendish (9b)

Open Your Heart and Mind

Does praise come easy to you? What enables you to praise God most easily?

Finding God in His Word

Read Psalm 146

“Praise the LORD” brackets both the beginning and end of this psalm. How does praise “bracket” your life?

Why is there a need for both corporate and personal praise of God? What does corporate praise teach us about our relationship to one another and to the Lord? How does personal praise build our spiritual lives and prepare us for corporate praise?

The great obstacle to praise is trust in man. Why do you think the psalmist calls this particular obstacle to praise out? How does trust in man dishonor God? Why does trust in man degrade you? In what ways does trust in man disappoint? Beyond political figures, who are other types of people that we can trust in that can become obstacles to praise? What is the balance between proper trust in another human being that is not an obstacle to praising and trusting in Christ?

In verse 5, the psalmist calls God, the God of Jacob. Thinking of Jacob’s story (Jacob became Israel), how would trusting in the God of Jacob bring blessing into your life? Why is it important to not only know God ourselves, but to be known by God as well?

Verse 6-10 list a multitude of reasons we are to praise God. They can be summarized as praising God for who He is, and praising God for what He does. Take some time as a group and come together in prayer to praise God for these things. In prayer, add whatever else you would like as you take time to together praise the Lord.

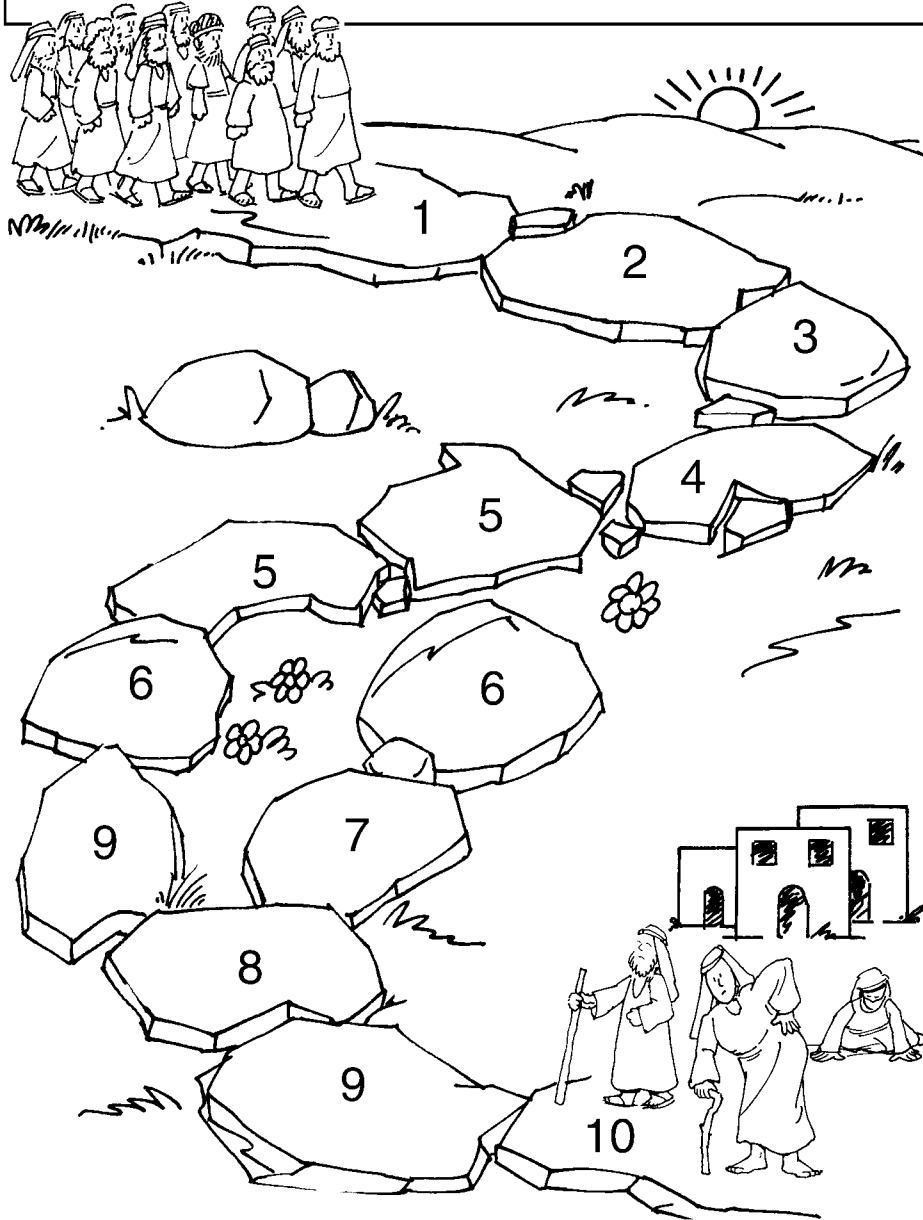
Live the Christ Life

1. In your personal time with the Lord this week, take time to focus on your personal praise to God.

The disciples went out to preach and heal.

Help the disciples get to the people
by following the numbers.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10



Ages 3+

July 4, 2021 • Mark 6:1-13

Teaching in the Villages

Jesus went to His hometown.
Some people there did not believe in Him.

Circle the people who have FAITH.

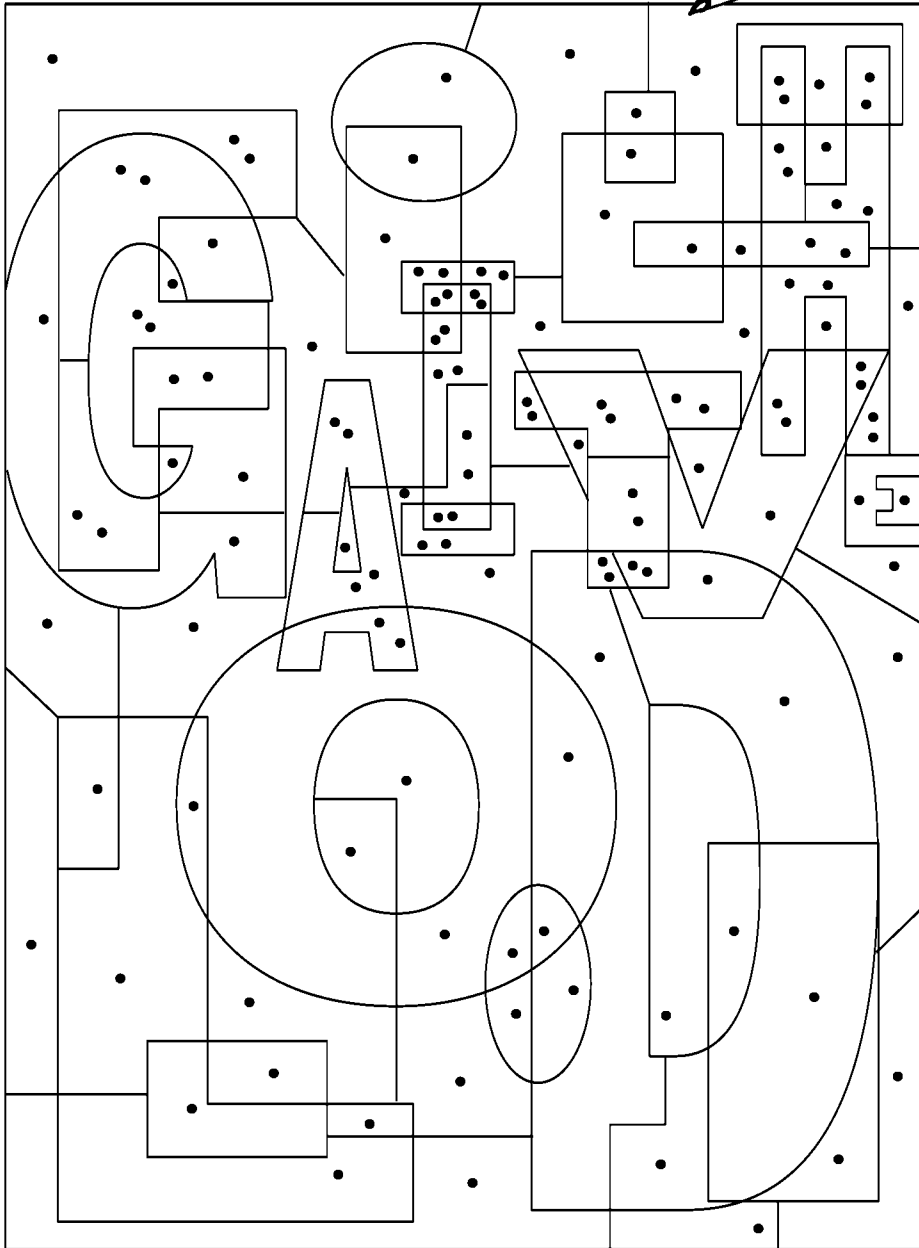
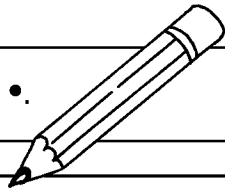


Enter your **SECRET CODE** to unlock games @
games.childrensbulletins.com

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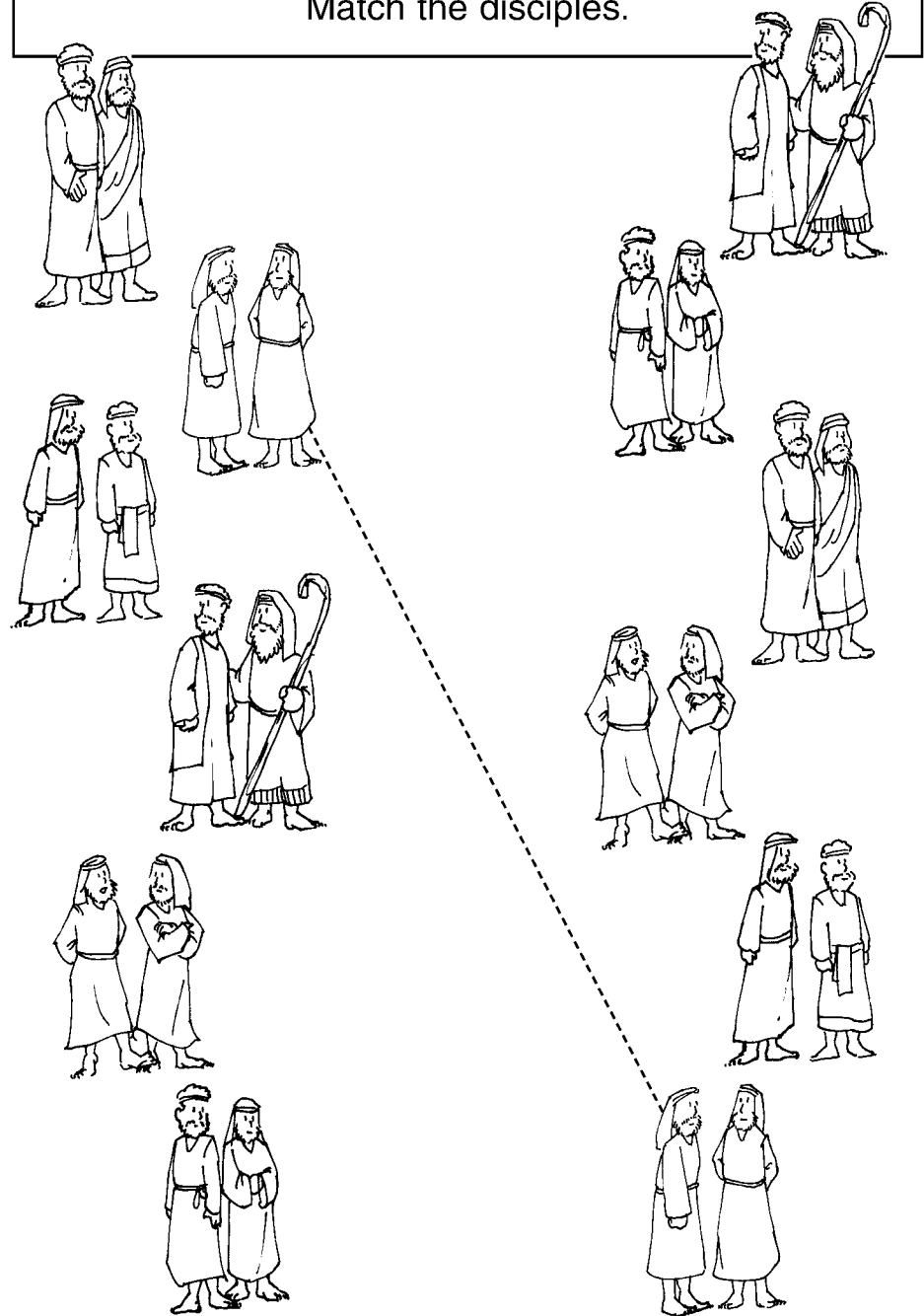
Jesus was surprised at their lack of faith.

Shade the shapes that have ••.



He sent out His disciples 2 by 2.

Match the disciples.





STEWARDSHIP

WORSHIP SERVICE- 6/27/21

Attendance Worship 542

Church Picnic 350

YTD Goal \$1,541,118

YTD Deficit \$43,799

WAYS TO GIVE BEYOND CASH

RMBC App or Text reedleymbc

to 1-888-364-4483