

Sermon Study Guide

This Week: Choosing to Trust

Series: In God We Trust -Part 1

Passage: Matthew 26:-36-39

BIG IDEA: A healthy relationship is built on unwavering trust.



APPETIZER: Let's chat!

William Tell was a well-known expert with the crossbow. He was once put in a predicament where he needed to shoot an apple off the head of his son. He may have been confident with his abilities, but imagine being his son, having to trust that his dad knew what he was doing!

Group Discussion: Have you ever been put in a place where you needed to trust the expertise of someone, where you placed your life (or at least your dignity) in their hands? How did you survive?



MAIN COURSE: Getting into the text.

Translators struggle with deciphering Job 13:15. It either says: *"Though he slay me, yet I will hope."*

But it could easily also mean: *"He may slay me, I have no hope."*

One appears to speak to the idea of full loyalty to God, regardless of the consequences. The other appears to imply that God has been out to get Job.

Question: have you ever wrestled with the tension between trusting and God and wondering if it may not be worth it? Why is trusting so hard?

Definition of Trust: Trust is believing in the reliability, truth, ability or strength of something.

Discussion: In a "post-trust" society, it seems as if we are suspicious of everything (government, media, business, education, organized religion) and even ourselves.

Why do you think trust is a difficult thing to come across? What are some changes in society that have affected our trust in others, in institutions, and in ourselves.

READ: Matthew 26:36-39

Jesus gives us an example of what a trusting relationship in difficult times can look like.

Discussion: What are some words that stand out in the passage that we just read? What does it tell us about who Jesus is and what he is like?

The sermon suggested that there are two things Jesus communicates in his trusting relationship with God:

1. He is honest and open with his doubts and concerns
2. He continues to believe in the goodness of God

Jesus lived by faith, not by sight. He lived out of the worldview that put God at the centre of reality, not himself. And he saw that there were things greater in life than personal comfort.

Think about this: If you assume God's motives are bad, you will never trust him. If you assume that his motives are good, you will have an unwavering trust in him.

Do you agree with this? Why does this ring true?



DESSERT: How do we respond?

We can choose to trust God today by practicing confession.

1. We confess our doubts! God can handle our doubts!
2. We confess our choice to trust

Two Guiding questions. When it comes to our discussion today, two questions help us to invite the Holy Spirit into our response. Ask:

1. What is Jesus saying to me?
2. What am I going to do about it?

*People can either reflect on these questions silently, or in a group, or even write their thoughts down.

CLOSING PRAYER:

(Take a moment of silence just to reflect on all the areas of our lives that we need to trust God with. If someone feels comfortable, let them lead in a prayer of trust, where they declare that they will trust God in all the areas of their life as this list them out).