Sermon 19/1/25

Is God trustworthy?

Good morning, everyone, it is good to be here!

Now last week Jill had a gift with chocolate in it. Who got chocolate last week? Yes? Well kids, if you come down here, I also have something for you this week…

Now, we’re going to find out this morning if God is trustworthy. Do you think God is trustworthy? Do you think he does what he says?

So, I’m wondering if you are trustworthy? Can I trust you with these Freddos? If I give you a Freddo frog, can I trust you not to eat it or even open it until the end of the service?

And I will give you something else at the end of the service. Do you think you can trust me?

Let’s find out, shall we?

1. God has brought us this far (Moses and exodus)

God has brought us this far. There is not a single person I know who has not been through some trouble of some sort. Have you ever experienced difficulties in your life? You may be going through something difficult right now. I wouldn’t be surprised because that is the world we live in. Ever since humanity rebelled against God. The perfect world God created has been in conflict and known destruction and death, fighting and foolishness, hardship and horrors, sorrow and sadness.

But through it all, God has constantly been with us and at work. The Old Testament of the bible is full of story after story of God’s relentless pursuit of his most prized creation of all, us, his people. A constant cycle of our rebellion and return and God’s rescuing and restoring.

In Exodus we learn about Moses, an Israelite, in Egypt. The Pharaoh, the ruler of Egypt, looked at all he Israelites, that is God’s chosen people, and saw how many of them there were, and thought “crikey, these guys are strong, I don’t want them to overpower us”, so he made all the Israelites his slaves and forced them to work. But the Israelites kept multiplying, they grew in number, just as God promised Abraham he would do for his people when he said to him “*I will make you into a great nation”*.

This made the Egyptians even more worried and even more cruel. So cruel that the Pharoah ordered that every baby boy be thrown in the river Nile and killed.

Well one mother, from the Israelite tribe of Levi, understandably didn’t want her baby boy to die, so she took a risk, and placed him in a basket and floated it on the river Nile. There it was recovered by the Pharaoh’s own daughter. This was the baby Moses, who then grew up in the Pharaoh’s own house. Amazing.

Now when Moses grew up and learned he was an Israelite and saw how his people were being treated, he was angry and killed a man, and when he realised the trouble he was now in, he ran away.

He left Egypt for 40 years, married, had children of his own and lived as a shepherd. Then one day, while Moses was tending his flock, God spoke to him from a burning bush. He told Moses who he was, that he was the God of his fathers, and that he has chosen Moses to save his people.

Let watch a video of he next part of the story.

<https://youtu.be/axnf5llKd5Q?si=j1H2I9Jfn6AqZ_46>

Exodus 20:2

“I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.

1. God has rescued us (Jesus, there is nothing God cannot rescue us from)

God has rescued us. Now ever since then, we have continued to rebel against God, even God’s own people rebel. Even though, through the bible and the life of Jesus, he’s told us and shown us how to live to have the happiest life, we still mess it up, go our own way and try to live our lives without God. Perhaps you live your life without God? Maybe you think you know what’s best for you? And what’s best for the world?

Well, it’s not too late. There is nothing God cannot rescue us from, nothing he cannot rescue you from and nothing he cannot rescue me from.

Now I know that can be hard to believe. But also, perhaps you never considered that you need rescuing from anything, don’t you need to be in some kind of trouble to need rescuing?

What about your sin? It’s a funny word, sin. Isn’t that the bad stuff people do?

Perhaps you have always thought well I’m not a bad person, in fact I’m a good person. I’m kind, helpful, generous, an upstanding member of the community, I work hard, love my family, am nice to my friends, people respect me, I’m an honourable individual. What sin could I have?

Sin, in its simplest form, is the result of living life without God. Without God at the centre of it. Without God in charge. Living life our way. Disobedient to him. Is God in charge of your life right now?

It doesn’t matter whether you have known God and known Jesus all your life or don’t know him at all, the bible tell us in Romans chapter 3 verse 23 “*for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,”* and that includes you and it includes me.

This is something I wrestle with every day. God has given me a brain to use, a mind to reason with, and the will to make choices, which are not always the best. The struggle is real.

But the bible goes on to say *“and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.****25****God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement,[*[*i*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans%203&version=NIV#fen-NIV-28017i)*] through the shedding of his blood—to be received by faith.”*

By believing that Jesus, God’s one and only son, took on our sins, and died in our place, we receive forgiveness and what’s more, we are made right with the one and only true God.

Do you believe?

Now you might think, oh but I am NOT a good person. You don’t know all the bad I’ve done, how I’ve hurt people, lied and cheated, well this same good news is good news for you too. The bible says that ALL have sinned, and ALL are justified freely by his grace. It is a free gift to EVERYONE. No matter what you’ve done.

Do you need THIS forgiveness in your life?

Believe it, and it is yours.

1. God is with us (our help and our strength)

God is with us, our help and our strength.

I don’t know about you but sometimes I am all over the place. Excited and inspired by scripture one day and overwhelmed by the weight of the world, or even just my own life, the next. My feelings get the better of me. One day is sunny, the next is grey. One day I’m bouncing around ready to run a marathon, the next I can’t get out of bed.

But where is my trust? Am I putting my trust in my feelings? Feelings come and go; they ebb and flow.

God does not!

He is constant. A rock.

It’s true, it’s hard to continually live in a world where we keep going our own way, where bad things happen to us. This life is not easy, and it will never be easy, this side of Jesus’ return. But *“**No temptation[*[*a*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20Corinthians%2010%3A13&version=NIV#fen-NIV-28581a)*] has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted[*[*b*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20Corinthians%2010%3A13&version=NIV#fen-NIV-28581b)*] beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted,[*[*c*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20Corinthians%2010%3A13&version=NIV#fen-NIV-28581c)*] he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.”* 1 Cor 10:13.

God is with us. He is our strength in times of trouble. He is our guide. He IS our way out.

Do we seek Him when we are tempted? Have you tried? He is only a heartfelt conversation away.

And he has created and given us the perfect structure of support, his church. He’s given us His word, the bible, and we can talk to him anytime, in prayer, and in fact, tell us we should pray without stopping!

Where is your trust? Is it in your feelings; your circumstances, the things that happen to you; or are you trusting, day by day in God, the author of our lives?

1. God has conquered even death (where will you spend eternity?)

Let me ask you a question? Where are you spending eternity?

Do we really grasp how big our God is? There is nothing he cannot do. If we still have our reservations, we need only look at the cross, and even more so, the empty tomb. That tomb was empty because God raised Jesus from the dead. God even has power over death. This is the God we serve and worship. Jesus has power over death. He is the one who has taken our sins on his shoulders and paid the price we deserve. And willingly to boot! Such is His love for us.

Through the death, and resurrection of Jesus, God has even conquered death itself. When humanity went its own way by disobeying God in the Garden of Eden, death entered the world, BUT, when we accept Jesus as our personal rescuer instead we will spend eternity exactly where he intended us to, with him.

Where are you spending eternity?

1. God will return, Jesus will return (and make all things beautiful again.)

So, what does eternity look like? Well, we don’t know for sure. The bible does tell us that all of creation will be restored, as God designed. When I think of creation I think of a babies smile, or the wagging tail of a puppy, or the view from a mountian top. And if we look to the Genesis 2 account of creation, we can see that God made it all, He planted the garden, he breathed life into humanity, *“And the Lord God made to grow out of the ground every tree that is pleasing to the eyes and good for food.”* He provided everything we need, and it would’ve been beautiful. And there were rivers flowing, making the garden lush and green. It would have been perfect. And what is more, the first people got to commune with God. They were able to walk in his presence.

What a beautiful image, walking in the garden with God, our creator, our Father and our friend; walking with Jesus.

Whatever else is true, it will be amazing when Jesus returns.

You know, I’m convinced God gave me this sermon, not necessarily for you, but for me. I believe he wanted to show ME that he is trustworthy. And challenge ME as to where I was putting my trust.

Towards the end of last year, I was getting concerned about my future. I have lived my life for my children. I have no husband. I do not own my own house. What will become of me when my children leave?! Well God showed me that I have nothing to fear, because he is my God. He has brought me this far. He has rescued me from my sins and my poor life decisions. He’s been with me through my divorce, my parenting, my grief, and I have always had what I need. He showed me that he is with me every day, I just need to keep my eyes on him, not my feelings or circumstances.

My future is secure because it is in him. I am excited by what the future holds with God at the centre.

And when the time comes, I will spend eternity with him, worshipping him forever, and living in perfect harmony with all of creation.

Is God trustworthy? You decide. The bible, His word, shows us repeatedly that He is. I’m sure there are people around you, that can tell of their experience of God’s trustworthiness.

Do you believe it?

(Invite kids back up.) Who still has their Freddo Frog? Well done. Let’s give these guys a clap. Now I did also say if you came back up, I would give you something else, so as promised, here are some lollies for each of you.

(Give kids another treat.)

Now you guys can go sit down again, and we’re going to pray together.

Prayer:

Father God, Almighty God, creator and ruler of heaven and earth, King Jesus, you alone are worthy of our praise. Your mercy and grace are endless and we are convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons,[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans%208%3A38-39&version=NIV#fen-NIV-28155a)] neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, **39**neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Father, it is remarkable, all that you have done for us, your incredible, unconditional love for us, but Father, I’m aware there may still be some that are unsure or hesitant. Father, poor out your amazing blessing on them. Show them that whatever their situation and whatever their hesitation, the answer is found in Jesus.

Father, we give you our past. We acknowledge our need for Jesus, and we thank you that through him, our sins are forgiven.

Thank you, that through Jesus, all things have been reconciled to you, and that all of creation will be restored.

Father, thankyou that you are trustworthy, that our past, present and future are all secure in you. There is nothing left for us to fear, when you have conquered even death itself.

Father, help us to believe this, and to hold firmly to the love that is found in Christ Jesus, help us to be obedient to you, keeping you at the centre of our lives, our God.

Forever and ever and in Jesus precious name, we pray, amen.