

Bay City Wesleyan Church -- Bay City, Michigan

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Sunday Morning Worship Celebration 04-14-2024

Transitions fill our lives. Moving from our well-known past to our unknown future, we move through uncharted territory. We must leave behind comfort, familiarity, and safety. As Jesus leads us, he whispers, "Will you trust me?" Our response to the challenges of unfamiliar ground reveals our answer.

Photo by Deniss Bojanini: <https://www.pexels.com/photo/people-on-the-hiking-trail-in-caminito-del-rey-in-malaga-spain-16356094/>

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John 6:1-13 NIV

[1] Some time after this, Jesus crossed to the far shore of the Sea of Galilee (that is, the Sea of Tiberias), [2] and a great crowd of people followed him because they saw the signs he had performed by healing the sick. [3] Then Jesus went up on a mountainside and sat down with his disciples. [4] The Jewish Passover Festival was near. [5] When Jesus looked up and saw a great crowd coming toward him, he said to Philip, "Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?" [6] He asked this only to test him, for he already had in mind what he was going to do. [7] Philip answered him, "It would take more than half a year's wages to buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!" [8] Another of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, spoke up, [9] "Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?" [10] Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." There was plenty of grass in that place, and they sat down (about five thousand men were there). [11] Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted. He did the same with the fish. [12] When they had all had enough to eat, he said to his disciples, "Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted." [13] So they gathered them and filled twelve baskets with the pieces of the five barley loaves left over by those who had eaten.

John 12:24-26 TPT

[24] Let me make this clear: A single grain of wheat will never be more than a

single grain of wheat unless it drops into the ground and dies. Because then it sprouts and produces a great harvest of wheat—all because one grain died.[25] “The person who loves his life and pampers himself will miss true life! But the one who detaches his life from this world and abandons himself to me, will find true life and enjoy it forever! [26] If you want to be my disciple, follow me and you will go where I am going. And if you truly follow me as my disciple, the Father will shower his favor upon your life.

Series: UNFAMILIAR GROUND Series Big Idea: Transitions fill our lives. Moving from our well-known past to our unknown future, we move through uncharted territory. We must leave behind comfort, familiarity, and safety. As Jesus leads us, he whispers, “Will you trust me?” Our response to the challenges of unfamiliar ground reveals our answer.Text: Psalm 78 especially vs. 1-8, 15-33Title: The Blame Game

Psalms 78:1-8, 15-33 NET

[1] Pay attention, my people, to my instruction! Listen to the words I speak! [2] I will sing a song that imparts wisdom; I will make insightful observations about the past. [3] What we have heard and learned – that which our ancestors have told us – [4] we will not hide from their descendants. We will tell the next generation about the Lord’s praiseworthy acts, about his strength and the amazing things he has done. [5] He established a rule in Jacob; he set up a law in Israel. He commanded our ancestors to make his deeds known to their descendants, [6] so that the next generation, children yet to be born, might know about them. They will grow up and tell their descendants about them. [7] Then they will place their confidence in God. They will not forget the works of God, and they will obey his commands. [8] Then they will not be like their ancestors, who were a stubborn and rebellious generation, a generation that was not committed and faithful to God. [15] He broke open rocks in the wilderness, and gave them enough water to fill the depths of the sea. [16] He caused streams to flow from the rock, and made the water flow like rivers. [17] Yet they continued to sin against him, and rebelled against the sovereign One in the desert. [18] They willfully challenged God by asking for food to satisfy their appetite. [19] They insulted God, saying, “Is God really able to give us food in the wilderness? [20] Yes, he struck a rock and water flowed out, streams gushed forth. But can he also give us food? Will he provide meat for his people?” [21] When the Lord heard this, he was furious. A fire broke out against Jacob, and his anger flared up against Israel, [22] because they did not have faith in God, and did not trust his ability to deliver them. [23] He gave a command to the clouds above, and opened the doors in the sky. [24] He rained down manna for them to eat; he gave them the grain of heaven. [25] Man ate the food of the mighty ones. He sent them more than enough to eat. [26] He brought the east wind through the sky, and by his strength led forth the south wind. [27] He rained down meat on them like dust, birds as numerous as the sand on the seashores. [28] He caused them to fall right in the middle of their camp, all around their homes. [29] They ate until they were stuffed; he gave them what they desired. [30] They were not yet filled up, their food was still in their mouths, [31] when the anger of God flared up against them. He killed some of the strongest of them; he brought the young men of Israel to their knees. [32] Despite all this, they continued to sin, and did not trust him to do amazing things. [33] So he caused them to die unsatisfied and filled with terror.

The climate of the Land Between can be so harsh that neutrality is not an option. The conditions have a way of either drawing us toward God or driving us away from him.Citation: Jeff Manion, The Land Between: Finding God in Difficult Transitions

(p. 192). HarperCollins Christian Publishing. Kindle Edition.

We can choose to respond to unfamiliar ground with grumbling and complaining, or we can choose to respond with gratitude and praise.

<http://bible.com/events/49243790>