



## **SERMON SERIES & BIBLE STUDY**

In a world filled with constant change, distrust, and uncertainty, the upcoming sermon series starting on Sunday, January 14, tackles a fundamental aspect of human relationships: trust. The theme, "Trusting Others," invites us to delve into the complexities of trust, especially in a world where fear, artificial intelligence, and deceit seem to overshadow our daily lives.

The series begins with the question: How do we trust in a world that often stirs up fear, a world where AI is becoming increasingly prevalent, and where individuals may resort to deception to reach success? The overarching theme aims to explore the challenges of trust in today's world, emphasizing the difficulties of placing trust in others in the face of community and world challenges.

Each week, the series unfolds with a specific sub-theme, encouraging those who come to worship to take notes and engage deeply with the sermon.

This Sunday, January 14, focuses on "Trusting Others...With Our Truths." It encourages us to reflect on the authenticity of our interactions, challenging truth and transparency in our relationships.

The following weeks explore different areas of trust:

**January 21: Trusting Others... With the Narrative**

The narrative we construct about ourselves, and others significantly impacts trust. This session explores the stories we tell and how they shape our perceptions of trust.

**January 28: Trusting Others... With Authority**

Delving into the dynamics of trust and authority, this week's sermon encourages contemplation on how authority figures influence our lives, and the role trust plays in such relationships.

## February 4: Trusting Others... With Our Well-Being

Trusting others with our well-being is a profound act that requires vulnerability. This week's sermon explores the challenges and rewards of trusting our physical and emotional well-being to others.

## February 11: Transfiguration - Trusting Others... As We Change

As the series concludes on Transfiguration Sunday, the focus shifts to how trust evolves through change. Embracing transformation and trusting others during moments of transition become central themes.

## Sunday, January 14, 2024

### Trusting Others...With Our Truths

#### Sermon Reflection

#### 1 Samuel 3:1-10

<sup>1</sup>Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the LORD under Eli. The word of the LORD was rare in those days; visions were not widespread.

<sup>2</sup>At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; <sup>3</sup>the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was. <sup>4</sup>Then the LORD called, "Samuel! Samuel!" and he said, "Here I am!" <sup>5</sup>and ran to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But Eli said, "I did not call; lie down again." So Samuel went and lay down. <sup>6</sup>The LORD called again, "Samuel!" Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But Eli said, "I did not call, my son; lie down again." <sup>7</sup>Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, and the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him. <sup>8</sup>The LORD called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." Then Eli perceived that the LORD was calling the boy. <sup>9</sup>Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down; and if the LORD calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

<sup>10</sup>Now the LORD came and stood there, calling as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

**Focus Verse:** "Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down; and if the LORD calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.'" – 1 Samuel 3:9

**Prayer of the Day:** Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ, most merciful redeemer, for the countless blessings and benefits you give. May we know you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly, day by day praising you, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**Big Idea:** In a society where trust is uncertain, this sermon series offers a timely exploration of how individuals can develop trust in the face of adversity, guided by God's grace, love, and forgiveness. As we engage with the scriptures and reflections, we will be encouraged to navigate the complexities of trust in a rapidly changing world, ultimately seeking a deeper connection with both each other and our relationship with God.

**Take Notes:** What did you hear in the sermon? What made you think? How did it make you feel? What ways can we trust others with our truths?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Sunday, January 21, 2024**  
**Trusting Others... With the Narrative**  
**Sermon Reflection**

**Mark 1:14-20**

<sup>14</sup>Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, <sup>15</sup>and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the dominion of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.”

<sup>16</sup>As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. <sup>17</sup>And Jesus said to them, “Follow me and I will make you fish for human beings.” <sup>18</sup>And immediately they left their nets and followed him. <sup>19</sup>As Jesus went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. <sup>20</sup>Immediately Jesus called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.



Write your response(s) in the space below.

- What ways has your narrative of life affected your perspective for the good or bad?
- What are ways that we can change the narrative?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

As you feel called, share your responses (or general reflections) with the group.

**Sunday, January 28, 2024**  
**Trusting Others...With Authority**  
**Sermon Reflection**

**Mark 1:21-28**

<sup>21</sup>Jesus and his disciples went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. <sup>22</sup>They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. <sup>23</sup>Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, <sup>24</sup>and he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God." <sup>25</sup>But Jesus rebuked the spirit, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" <sup>26</sup>And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of the man. <sup>27</sup>They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, "What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him." <sup>28</sup>At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

Focus Verse: "They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, "What is this? A new teaching—with authority!" – Mark 1:27





Focus Verse: “Jesus came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.” – Matthew 1:31

Prayer: Everlasting God, you give strength to the weak and power to the faint. Make us agents of your healing and wholeness, that your good news may be made known to the ends of your creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Big Idea: Trusting others with our well-being is a profound act that requires vulnerability. This week's sermon explores the challenges and rewards of trusting our physical and emotional well-being to others.

Take Notes: What did you hear in the sermon? What made you think? How did it make you feel? What are the challenges and rewards of trusting our physical and emotional well-being with others?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**The Week of Sunday, February 4, 2024**  
**Trusting Others...With Our Well-Being**  
**Small Group Study**

Prepare:

- Pray together.
- Share your journal responses and/or thoughts from Sunday’s sermon.

Discussion Questions. Share your thoughts with someone next to you.

- What are ways that you work on your well-being?
- What gets in the way of your well-being?



**Read Mark 1:29-39**

Write your response(s) in the space below.

- What makes trusting others with our well-being a profound act that requires vulnerability?
- What are ways that we can gain trust to support others in their well-being?

As you feel called, share your responses (or general reflections) with the group.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Sunday, February 11, 2024**  
**Trusting Others...As We Change**  
**Sermon Reflection**

**Mark 9:2-9**

<sup>2</sup>Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, <sup>3</sup>and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. <sup>4</sup>And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. <sup>5</sup>Then Peter said to Jesus, “Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” <sup>6</sup>He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. <sup>7</sup>Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, “This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!” <sup>8</sup>Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

<sup>9</sup>As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son-of-Man had risen from the dead.



