

“Cultivating Curiosity & Wonder”  
Pastor Morgan Murray  
West Valley Presbyterian Church

The theme for last Sunday was, “Cultivating Curiosity & Wonder.”  
The worship service began with Exodus 15:11:

Exodus 15:11

11 “Who among the gods is like you, O LORD?

Who is like you—

majestic in holiness,

awesome in glory,

working wonders?



At the beginning of the sermon, Pastor Morgan referred to Colossians 2:2-4, and noted how cultivating curiosity and wonder enables us to both grow in greater knowledge of God’s work in our lives through Jesus Christ:

Col 2:2-4

2 My purpose is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ,  
3 in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

Even as we grow in knowledge, we can also appreciate the mystery of God – namely, that no matter how much we know of God, we recognize that God is always greater than we can fully understand or comprehend.

When we look to the gospels, we are amazed to find that Jesus repeatedly encourages us to cultivate a spirit of curiosity and wonder by calling us to take the posture of children who are open to learning, growing, and receiving the world as a place of discovery:

Matthew 19:14

14 Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." 15 When he had placed his hands on them, he went on from there.

Matthew 18:2-4

2 He called a little child and had him stand among them. 3 And he said: "I tell you the truth, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. 4 Therefore, whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

One of the ways we do support this experience for kids is through VBS. Another is providing students the opportunity to experience God's creation on the Houseboats trip. Last week's VBS theme was about science, so Morgan did one the science experiments from the week's VBS theme. In the experiment, two compounds that look the same and are nearly the same in terms of chemical composition (sodium bicarbonate and sodium carbonate) act very differently. When these two come into contact with white vinegar (an acid), the sodium bicarbonate releases carbon dioxide with lots of overflowing bubbles, while sodium carbonate doesn't really do anything.

Together we thought about scripture verses that came to mind as we say the sodium bicarbonate and white vinegar bubble over in a fun, messy way. This could illustrate a lot of things, but Morgan encouraged us to think about how his demonstration represents the authentic work of the Holy Spirit in our lives, as compared to our efforts to make things happen for God. He encouraged us to allow this summer to be a time when we can be more playful, more open to doing new things and doing old things in new ways. He encouraged us to cultivate curiosity and wonder in order to become aware of how the Holy Spirit is at work in surprising ways and in surprising places.

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