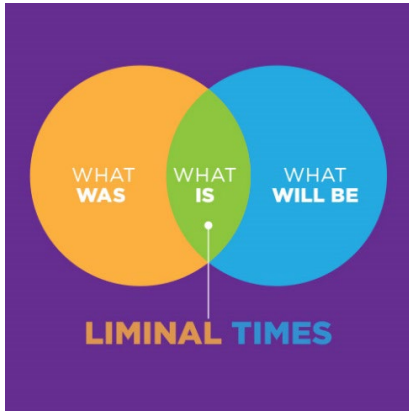


Small Group Questions

Small groups and individuals can use these questions to engage the content of Sunday sermons.



April 24–May 8, 2022

Liminal Times: Between What Was and What Will Be

A liminal time is the space in time between the 'what was' and the 'next.' It is a time of transition, an in-between time, when something new has already begun, but is not yet fully realized. A liminal time is where all transformation takes place, if we learn to wait and let it form us. The work of the liminal experience is defined by three questions: Who am I? Who is God calling me to be? Who am I to serve?

I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. -- Philippians 1:6

Week 1: April 24, 2022

The Power of Liminal Experiences

Luke 4:1-14

Connect:

Name a liminal time in your own life? What were some of the challenges you faced? In what ways were you changed?

Engage:

Read [Exodus 16:1-15](#) and [Luke 4:1-14](#)

1. The Israelites' time in the wilderness was a liminal time: they were no longer slaves in Egypt, that time had passed, but they had not yet come to the land God had promised them, the land flowing with milk and honey. They were in-between, on the road, wandering in the wilderness. It lasted 40 years. In what ways do you recognize the Israelites being changed as they wandered in the wilderness?
2. Jesus' time in the wilderness was very different from that of the Israelites. What enabled Jesus to resist the temptations placed before him? How was Jesus "transformed" through this experience? What did he gain from it?
3. When you reflect upon the span of your own life, what characteristics have been strengthened so that they may be used for God's purposes? What part was played by you and the Holy Spirit in making that possible?

Apply

The work of a liminal experience is defined by three questions: Who am I? Who is God calling me to be? Who am I to serve?

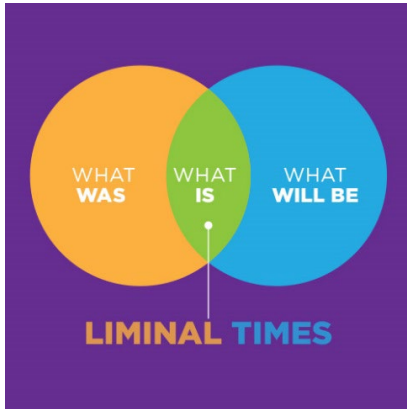
What will you commit to do to facilitate gaining clarity about these questions this coming week?

Pray

Share joys and concerns and pray for one another, the church and the world.

Small Group Questions

Small groups and individuals can use these questions to engage the content of Sunday sermons.



April 24–May 8, 2022

Liminal Times: YOUTH SUNDAY

The youth have been studying the word, "steadfast" all year. They have played games, engaged in team-building exercises, looked at examples of people in their own lives and people in the Bible who are great examples of steadfastness, explored personal distractions that challenge their ability to be steadfast, and finally learned new spiritual practices to help them remain steadfast when life's distractions pull them from their focus. Our high school seniors have chosen to share their understanding of being steadfast under stress, and these are their questions for you.

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Week 2: May 1, 2022 – Youth Sunday

Steadfast

James 1:12

Connect:

Who are the examples in your life of someone who has been or is steadfast?

How can our church provide the congregation and the community opportunities to grow in their steadfastness to God and to one another?

Engage:

Read [James 1:12](#), [1 Corinthians 15:28](#), and [Psalm 33:20-22](#)

1. Have you ever played with a compass and a magnet? Did you know the magnetic pull of the magnet is strong enough to pull the needle off its course? If our lives point to God (North), what distractions (YouTube, gossip, politics) can pull our needle off its course? What are the distractions/obstacles that pull you from being steadfast?
2. One of our lessons this year involved marshmallows and toothpicks. Our youth created a bridge-like structure that a can of soup could pass under. The youth learned that the structure would be stronger if you used more than one toothpick to connect two marshmallows together. In this lesson, the marshmallows are the Word of God/scripture or prayer, and the toothpicks are the people within your community. To build a strong, steadfast faith structure, you need both: the community and the Word. How can our church provide the congregation and the community more opportunities to grow in their steadfastness to God and one another?

Apply

Our youth acknowledged one of the struggles of being steadfast was having time for God. Youth's schedules fill quickly, but their lives will be richer if they are intentional with their time. How can you make scheduled time for God this week?

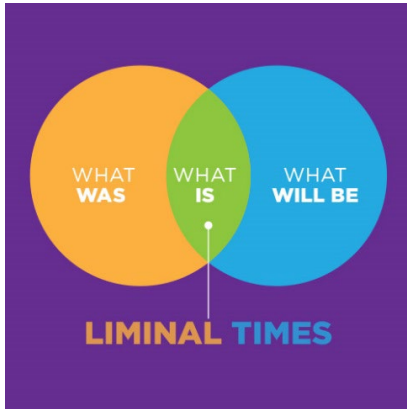
Knowing the youth need a present supportive community to grow in their faith, how can you be a steadfast presence in the youth program and in their lives

Pray

Share joys and concerns and pray for one another, the church and the world.

Small Group Questions

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April 24–May 8, 2022

Liminal Times: Between What Was and What Will Be

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Week 3: May 8, 2022

Love, Faith, and Doubt in Liminal Times

John 20:19-31

Connect:

Our entire life on this earth is a liminal time. Our new life in Christ has begun but will not be fully realized until Christ comes again.

The disciples, having witnessed Jesus' crucifixion and now his appearance before them, are in their own liminal time. What thoughts and feelings do you suppose the disciples were processing both for their individual lives and their ministry as Jesus' followers?

Engage:

Read [John 20:19-31](#)

1. What surprises you the most about Jesus' appearance to his disciples? Does this incident distress you in any way? What encourages you for your own walk of faith?
2. The Apostle Paul declares our new life in Christ means we are "new" creatures. What in your life is not aligned with God's purposes (sinfulness)? Have you worked to set aside or diminish these challenges? Share to the depth to which you are comfortable. What spiritual practices have been most helpful in your walk of faith?
3. In what ways is God at work in your life, shaping you for what is to come and what you are to become?

Apply

The liminal times in our lives can be challenging as who one has been is no longer adequate. It can also be freeing as new possibilities and a new identity can be explored. What might that look like for you?

Pray

Share joys and concerns and pray for one another, the church and the world.