

Forcing Your Way into the Kingdom

“The Law and the Prophets were until John; since then the good news of the kingdom of God is preached, and everyone forces his way into it.”

Sermon Questions

1. The “Law and the Prophets” refers to the _____.
2. The ministry of _____ marks the transition between the Old and New Testaments.
3. In Jesus’ teaching on the kingdom, he claimed that he was the _____.
4. The good news of the _____ is the announcement of God’s king (or Christ) establishing his rule, bring salvation and judgment to destroy evil, reverse the curse, and bring God’s perfect will to earth as it is in heaven.
5. Immediately after Peter knew Jesus’ identity, Jesus spoke about his _____.
6. Following Jesus involves faith fueling self-denial, sacrifice, perseverance, and dedication. (Yes/No)
7. “Forcing” your way into the kingdom requires strength of _____, increasing affections, and resolve of _____.
8. List the three obstacles mentioned that we must force our way through to enter the kingdom:
 - i. _____. And how do you fight this? With _____.
 - ii. _____. And how do you fight this? _____.
 - iii. _____. And what must you do? _____.
9. What passage teaches us that striving is not contrary to grace but the fruit of it? _____

Note for Greek grammar nerds: The clause “forces his way” has been debated. The challenge is trying to translate this word “force.” First, what does it mean? Second, what voice is it? Let’s start with a quick grammar lesson on voice. An active voice would be something like this, “He forced the door open.” The passive voice, “The door was forced open.” The middle voice, “He forced himself through the door.” Rather than using word order and helping words to communicate voices in English, Greek uses different endings (inflections) on the root word. In this case, the middle and passive voice share the same inflection. So context must determine whether to translate this in the middle or passive voice. The subject in this case is “everyone” so the passive voice would be, “everyone is forced into it”—most see this as idiomatic for they are forcefully called to enter. I believe the subject fits better with the middle voice, “everyone is forcing their way into it.” What this means is that people are going to great pains to enter the kingdom of God (cf. Luke 15:1, Matt 11:12).

Discussion/Meditation Questions

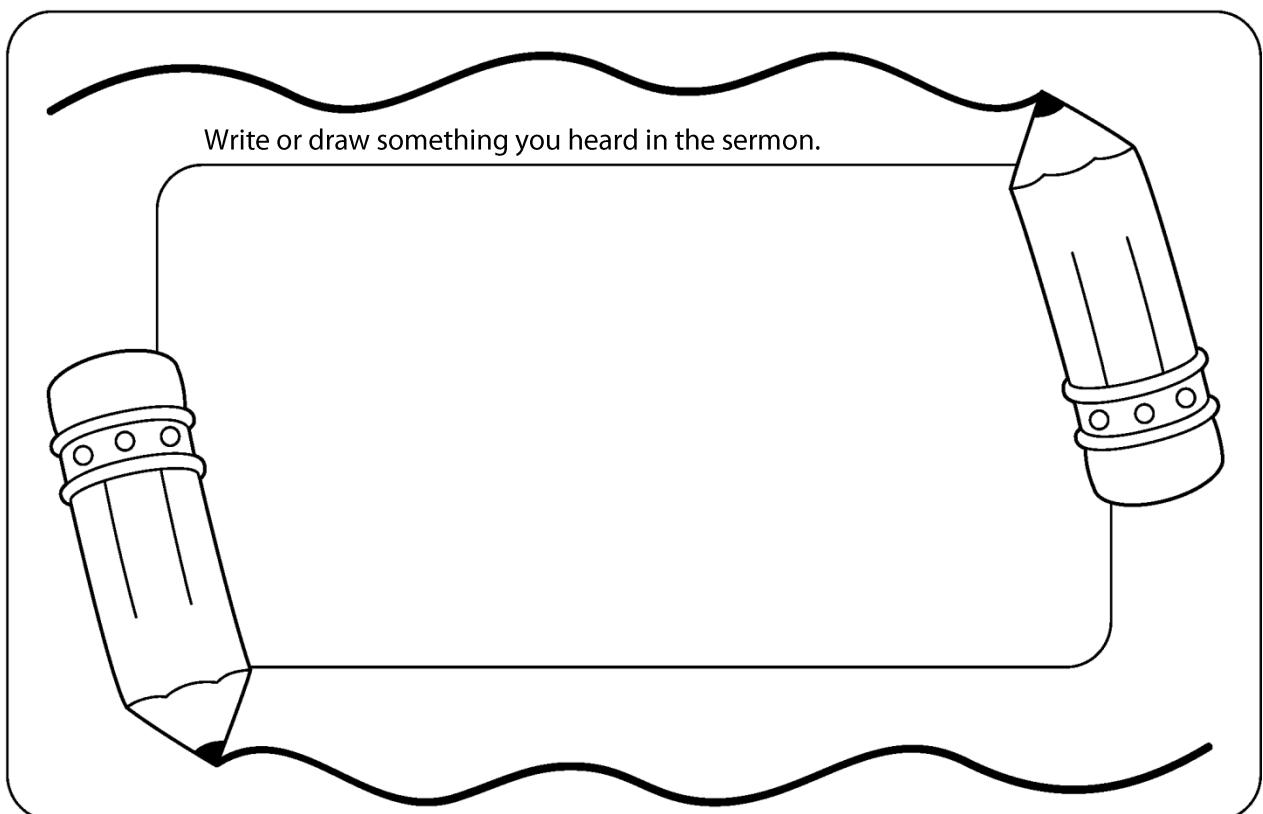
1. How would you rate the effort you spend in following Christ? Would you use words like force, strive or effort to describe the Christian life? How would you justify your answer?
2. Summarize the good news of the kingdom of God in a sentence or two. Does this differ from how you would summarize the gospel? Should there be a difference?
3. What is your greatest danger that threatens your following Christ? The sermon mentioned lies, sin, and apathy. Others may include relationships or fear. How will you "force" your way through?
4. What was your most significant take-away from this passage and sermon? Share this with another brother or sister in the fellowship.

Extras for the Children

What song did you enjoy the most today? _____

What did you learn about God today? _____

What words did you not know today? _____



Write or draw something you heard in the sermon.