

THE GOSPEL

According to **Greg**



January 14, 2024
www.fabricmpls.com

God doesn't play games - Think about it, unless God is really bored or insecure enough to need to keep us guessing, why would God play games? And really, do you think God is the sort of thing that makes up rules for us to follow, or that there is an intrinsic unity to all things that God and we are part of? A main reason Greg started Fabric was to escape the games, rules, expectations that have crept into 'church' separating us from what it's about rather than connecting us. There's a lot more to say, glad you're here!

WELCOME

Life, for adults and kids alike, is most fulfilling when it is woven deeply with the strands of your full self, others, and that third strand that is bigger, beyond, around and within us all that you may or may not know as God.

Learn more about Fabric at FabricMpls.com

Miss a week or want to hear the message again?

Check our podcast fabricmpls.podbean.com

WHAT TO EXPECT

We're glad you're here

Music with Chris Tripolino and the Fabric Band

Welcome & Say Hi

Message -- Greg Meyer

Connecting with and supporting Fabric

Some more Songs to sing along with

Closing Thoughts



Kids - What's Happening Today? We will be try our hand at what it's like to be an Artic Fox and Lemmings who live in the arctic, watch a cool National Geographic Kids video about lots of creatures who live in the harsh snowy conditions, munch on some popcorn, and create a northern lights artwork to remind us to pause and look around at the beauty that is already among us.

COMING UP AND MORE



Next week - Nothing is Written in Stone (and a mutual sendoff celebration) - That stone with those ironic words carved into it has sat at the front of our gatherings for 17 years for a reason. For Greg's last week he has a message that this stone stands for. "Being church" isn't about having all the right beliefs or behaviors, it's about this message that makes sense and helps us be authentic to ourselves, each other, this world, and the 3rd Strande. If Greg wants to leave us with anything, this is it.



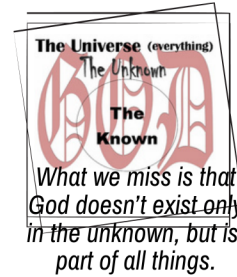
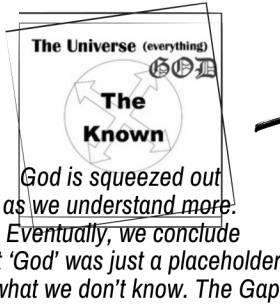
Greg Meyer, our founding Pastor, is retiring. Come celebrate with Greg & Kris, **January 21, 7-9pm**, open house style, at **The Schmidt Artist Lofts (900 W 7th Street, St Paul)**. Appetizers, desserts and beverages will be served. Toasts and Roasts with Greg @ 8:00pm.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Where we are and the story of our land matters. Most of us live in, and we gather in land that was part of the Dakota people for centuries, but from which they were forcibly and dishonorably removed by the US government. It is an honor and a responsibility for us to live on and care for this land today.

“God doesn’t play games” means... *God doesn’t have arbitrary rules, unreasonable expectations, act from anger, play favorites, capricious, give us brains only to tempt us to use them and think for ourselves.*

We start believing in a game playing God for many reasons, often it is because we have a **GAP THEOLOGY**.



A God of the Gap is not worth believing in, trusting, or following.

To get rid of a game playing God, also realize that... Neither God nor Jesus need or want CREDIT.

God and Jesus only want to make you WHOLE and each of us PART OF one another.

The big themes of the Bible steer us away from a game playing God.

*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, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. 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.' **He did not know what to say, for they were terrified.***

*Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!' Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus. **As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.***

Mark 9.2-9

This story isn't about WHO Jesus is, it's about WHAT JESUS DOES.

The transfiguration (Mark 9) isn't about what happened on the 6th day. It's DAY 7 that matters!

God isn't BIG, God just IS.

Why is this important?

A game playing God separates us from OURSELVES and ONE ANOTHER as we try to satisfy the desires of God.

A game playing God separates us from GOD by making God utterly OTHER. Unknowable, unapproachable, foreign.

We need to see God as that which pulls us together, weaves us into one.

You cannot look deeply into GOD without seeing your NEIGHBOR.

And you can't look deeply into the eyes of your NEIGHBOR without seeing GOD.

The Bible isn't sacred until you look THROUGH IT, not AT IT. *The Bible is a lens to look through to see ourselves, the world, and God.*

HOMEWORK - Do you sometimes fall for the Gap Theology trap? Letting God be part of what you don't understand and operating single-strandedly when you think you understand. Take a closer look at how you may be missing the real presence of God in each of those scenarios.

R.O.A.M.

ROAM (Read, Observe, Apply, Meditate) Roam through these and see where and how they tell us God shows up. Mark 9.2-9 (for the whole picture 8.11 - 9.9 Look for parallels in this ancient story, 1 Kings 19.1-15