

## ***Signs for Faith -- December 18, 2016 -- Otisville Church of Christ***

### **Opening Questions**

1. What are some signs (both tangible and intangible) that you experience in life?
2. Why do people look for “signs” to help them make decisions?
3. In your opinion, what is the least useful road sign, and why?

### **Into-the-Bible Questions**

The lesson this morning focused on Jesus as God’s sign for salvation and that he is with us. The texts and questions that follow will help you learn how signs are used in Scripture to teach something about God and faith. Signs, in the Bible, are faith-builders.

#### *Mark 13*

1. What prompted Jesus’ teaching about signs of the end times?
2. How do physical things distract us from a focus on God’s plan?
3. Why does Jesus warn about deception (5-6) and how does he connect it to distraction?
4. What is the purpose of these signs?
5. What is our responsibility to God? What words does Jesus say about the behavior we should have as we wait?

#### *Psalms 80*

1. What is this psalm about?
2. What is the central “sign” the psalmist points to in order to teach that lesson?
3. What refrain is repeated three times? How is this refrain a declaration of hope in God?
4. The description of the vine is of something grand that then fell. What do you think this describes about Israel’s experience?
5. How is this psalm about trust?

#### *Ezekiel 4:1-5:17; 12:1-20; 24:15-27*

1. What is the point of all these signs? What are they intended to do?
2. What do Ezekiel’s actions in chs. 4-5 symbolize? What hope does God leave them with?
3. What do Ezekiel’s actions in ch. 12 symbolize? How will knowledge of the Lord be taught?
4. What is the point of the sign in ch. 24? How will this lead to knowledge of God?
5. How does the symbolism of signs teach truth about God?

### **Application Questions**

1. What was your top insight from this morning’s lesson?
2. What “signs” should we look to, or for, to build our faith?
3. Are the Lord’s Supper and baptism signs? If so, of what?
4. How would you explain the purpose of signs in the Bible to someone who believes they need a visible sign for every major decision they make?
5. What do you need to do, or not do, to increase your faith?