



ENTER God's presence

Isaiah 43:18-21

"Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland. The wild animals honour me, the jackals and the owls, because I provide water in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland, to give drink to my people, my chosen, the people I formed for myself that they may proclaim my praise. "

Gracious God, you have promised to make all things new: to restore peace where there has been hatred, reduce tension where there has been anger, rekindle friendship where there has been enmity, relieve suffering where there has been violence and recreate a united nation that people may be blessed, and your name be praised for ever and ever. Bless this time together as we grow in grace and give us insight to name the new thing you are doing in those who gather with us today. Amen.



SHARE life together

1. **Share your highs and lows since you last met each other?**
2. **Where have you seen evidence of God's kingdom here on earth in your own life or community this past week?**
3. **What are three things that you know for certain?**
4. **As a child what did you imagine heaven to be like? How has that changed as you have become older?**

'Lifetime new for old replacement. If you are an eligible policy holder, we will replace yours with a brand new one of the same model and make, if yours is a total loss, and a replacement is available. Why settle for anything less?' Just make sure to read the fine print! We live in a throw-away society where we are constantly offered replacements or alternatives when things don't work out. It doesn't just apply to cars or other products, but to marriages and relationships as well. So when we hear Jesus telling us that he is making all things new, it is easy to subtly hear 'I am making all new things.' But the story of the Bible is that God doesn't give up on you, he doesn't declare you to be a write off or confine you to the scrap heap. Rather he redeems you, restores you, revives you, renews you. For the destiny for which you were created, was life forever with the Father and what God starts, he finishes – you are evidence of that. Every day and every minute, God, through the death and resurrection of Jesus is holding you securely in his hands, reviving what is lifeless so that you can fully live into the growing destiny he has promised you now.



VERSE for the week

He who was seated on the throne said,
"I am making everything new!"
Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."
He said to me: "It is done."

Revelation 21:5-6a



REMEMBER this week

**Heaven
has come to us
so we may
live!**



LISTEN attentively

Read Revelation 21:1-7; 22:1-7

Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth,”^[a] for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. ² I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. ⁴ ‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death’^[b] or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”

⁵ He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!” Then he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.”

⁶ He said to me: “It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water without cost from the spring of the water of life. ⁷ Those who are victorious will inherit all this, and I will be their God and they will be my children.

^{22:1} Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb ² down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. ³ No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him. ⁴ They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. ⁵ There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever.

⁶ The angel said to me, “These words are trustworthy and true. The Lord, the God who inspires the prophets, sent his angel to show his servants the things that must soon take place.”

⁷ “Look, I am coming soon! Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy written in this scroll.”

5. ***What phrases/words/images stand out for you? Challenge you? Confuse you? Comfort you? Speak to you at this point in your life?***
6. ***What will be new in eternity?***
7. ***When you hear God say, ‘It is done!’, what comes to mind? What do you think it means?***
8. ***What doesn’t the New Jerusalem need and why?***



GROW deeper

9. ***How are Genesis 1 & 2 and Revelation 21 & 22 like bookends on the Bible – how does it help us to understand the destiny for which we were made?***
10. ***‘Behold, I am making all things new.’ The word that is used means ‘new in quality’? With that meaning in your mind, what does that teach you about God?***
11. ***What hope does it give you in your life?***
12. ***Martin Luther in the Large Catechism says: “On the other hand, when people become Christians, the old person in them gets smaller each day until he’s completely gone.” Baptism... (LC, 182). How are you seeing the old person get smaller in your life each day...or if it isn’t, what is stopping that?***
13. ***Have a go at retelling Revelation 21:1-7; and 22:1-7 in your own words.***

***If I find in myself a desire which no experience in this world can satisfy,
the most probable explanation is that I was made for another world.’***

C.S. Lewis “Mere Christianity”



LIVE purposefully

- 14. Share how you went with your living purposefully from last time?**
- 15. Where can you see God doing a 'new' thing in your community/church and each person in your Life Discovery Group?**
- 16. In Jesus your past is redeemed and your future is certain, what needs to change in your life to live fully in his presence now?**
- 17. What area can this group encourage you/support you as you let Jesus do a new thing in your life?**



PRAY intentionally

- Praise God for his patience and love in our lives, restoring, reviving and giving us a new purpose in life.
- Thank Jesus for coming from heaven to give us life now.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to give you courage to live fully now, knowing that he is making all things new in your life!
- Pray for a heart of faith that can see the beauty and best in what God is doing in this world and in people's lives and for the boldness to call out that beauty for others to see.
- Pray for the Church that it may be an anchor of certainty for those who feel uncertain in life.
- Pray for our newly elected government, that they may be part of God's restoring, renewing work in this world.
- Pray for each other that we may live by these final words of life from Jesus.
- Ask the Father to give you someone (or two or three) to pray for, asking the Father to draw them to him. (John 6:44,45)
- Ask the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into his harvest, remembering you might be the very answer to the prayer that you pray.



BLESS one another

Make the sign of the cross in the air or on their forehead or palm of the hand of another person as you say...

[Name], your true destiny is in Jesus. Amen.