

Week Beginning: 2nd June 2019

Worship Series: #6 in series



living sharing growing



lifegroups
live life abundantly

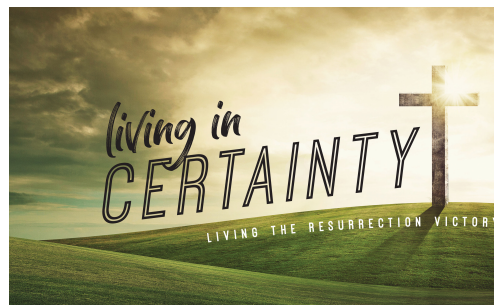
Theme Verse

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."

Revelation 21:5

Remember This Week

The Resurrection gives us future certainty and a present reality. God is making all things new. Right now! This is not about waiting to "go to heaven when we die" but about heaven that has come to us so we can live! Right Now! Where every day becomes more beautiful than the last as God reveals that the best is yet to come in us and through us. Now that's life-transforming. Right now!



"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. "

Isaiah 43:18-21

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, your name be praised and the world know with certainty, that you reign 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.



1. *Share your highs and lows since you last met with one another.*
2. *Share how you went with your living purposefully from last time?*
3. *What are three things that you know for certain?*
4. *What is the last 'new' thing that you received?*
5. *As a child, what did you imagine that heaven would be like? How has that changed, if at all, as you have aged?*

'Are we all done, all finished...'. You know what comes next if you have ever attended an auction. But maybe those words have taken on a new meaning in your own life. I'm all done, all finished, over it and in your mind you are thinking about your relationship, your past or even your life. The truth is you can't go back. What's done is done. But God says you can start anew. That's what his resurrection victory has won for you. It's all done, all finished, a sealed deal. Done. That's great news. The God who creates, the God who comes, the God who comforts and confirms, the God who completes and covers is the God who invites us into a new beginning, a new home, a new body, a new work and a new forever that is simply stunning. It's a life where you can declare with certainty each day that the best is yet to come. We'll explore and experience that today.

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

6. *According to Revelation 21, what will heaven be like and how does it differ from your answer in 4?*
7. *What will be 'new' in eternity?*





8. When you hear God say "It is done," what comes to mind?
9. What doesn't the 'New Jerusalem' need and why?
10. What similarities exist between the Garden of Eden and the New Jerusalem?

Have you ever taken a mulligan? Its a term that comes to us from the golfing world. A mulligan is to have a second chance to perform an action, usually after the first chance went wrong through bad luck, a blunder or a momentary poor decision. When you shank a drive off the tee, in a friendly competition, you might be given a mulligan, to take another shot without a penalty.

11. If there was one area/decision/choice in your life when you could ask for a mulligan, what would it be and why?

It would be great to apply the mulligan rule to life; that any minor mistake or unfortunate error would be allowed to pass unnoticed and without consequence, that it could be forgiven and forgotten because it was either made by a rank beginner, or because what happened is not normal of the level of play or conduct expected! If we could only plead, 'But your honour, my actions were out of character!' Yet every decision we make has repercussions and the results of sin are deadly (Romans 6:23). That's why between Genesis 1 & 2 and Revelation 21 & 22, we have the story of how Jesus came, redeeming the world from sin and restoring creation to its original purpose. We can't change the past but God redeems the present by giving us a future certainty in his Son, Jesus. The best is yet to come. It starts today as we live in the grace of our baptism. Baptism is a 'making all things new' reality that we experience every day...not a do over, not a try again...but a brand new beginning. Clean slate. Blank canvas. Fresh start. Full of hope and new possibilities. A new day which broadens our horizons, lifts our eyes to greater opportunities to share a hope that transforms every moment into fullness of life. For life is not about waiting to die so we can receive heaven, but heaven coming to us now...in Jesus, so we can live with eyes wide open and in expectation of what God is doing in us and through us.

11. Jesus is coming to take his bride...you. For those men in the group, who have been or are married, what was it like when you first set eyes on your bride on your wedding day? For women, what was it like when you saw your groom at the altar? What do you think God sees when he looks at his bride and how does that transform how you live now?



In our modernist and consumerist culture today, we hear the word 'new' as replacement. We are so used to chucking things out and replacing it with something new. So when we hear Jesus' words, we don't hear, "Behold, I am making all things new" but "Behold, I am making all new things!" The NT has two words for new, but the one that is used here means to be 'new in quality'. The story of the Bible is not that God gives up on you or chucks you out, but that he redeems you. Makes you new. Restores you to life. Revives what is dull or lifeless to something new. Renews what is broken and gives a new purpose. He lovingly takes the time to finish what he has begun in you. How amazing is that! This same meaning is seen in 2 Corinthians 5:17. That's a promise that is certain, trustworthy and true.

12. How does this change how you hear Jesus' promise and what does it mean for you personally in this moment?
13. What area of your life is dull, lifeless, broken that you need God to renew, revive or restore, or where have you seen God making things in your life new?
14. What is one concrete action you can take to live in certainty over the next month?



- * 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 whatever happens the best is still yet to come!
- * 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 each other that we may live by these final words of life from Jesus.

Turn to the person next to you and make the sign of the cross on the palm of their hand or forehead as you say:

Name, the best is yet to come in your life. Amen.

