

RECAP & REFLECT

Last week, Ash explored how God doesn't just visit us from a distance—He tabernacles with us, dwelling in the mess. She reminded us that we are the temple of the living God, and that God doesn't wait for us to clean up before He draws near. Like a muddy golden retriever bounding into the house, we're invited to come to God as we are. We were challenged to bring our mess before God, practice gratitude to see His presence in ordinary moments, identify where we might be called to "tabernacle" with others, and memorize 2 Corinthians 6:16.

- In what ways did you respond to the sermon this past week? How did it shape your thoughts, conversations and actions?

ICEBREAKER

- If you could ask God one question about what the new heaven and new earth will actually be like, what would you ask?

IDEA 1: MISSING THE PATH TO PEACE

Rob identified three ways the Palm Sunday crowd missed the path to true peace:

- They were overly focused on the here and now ("Save us NOW!")
- They were overly focused on nationalism and political control
- A greater eternal perspective was notably absent

Which of these three do you struggle with most? Where do you see yourself getting caught up in immediate concerns or political solutions at the expense of eternal perspective?

The sermon mentioned how the crowds wanted immediate relief ("Save us NOW!"). What's one area of your life right now where you're most tempted to want an immediate fix?

IDEA 2: ETERNAL PERSPECTIVE

Paul saw the Exodus story as pointing to something greater—not just geographical freedom, but eternal redemption. The land of milk and honey was a shadow of the new creation where God will dwell with His people forever. As believers, we have a guaranteed inheritance through the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 1:13-14).

- **How does knowing you have a guaranteed eternal inheritance change the way you view your current circumstances?**

Rob admitted struggling to really contemplate eternity—that his concepts feel underdeveloped.

- **Can you relate? What makes it hard to "think about eternity everyday"?**

The sermon contrasted shallow visions of heaven (clouds and harps, the "Big House" song) with a more compelling picture: a restored physical world where relationships go deep without fear, work becomes meaningful instead of toilsome, and creativity expands without limits.

- **What aspect of this vision of new creation most captures your imagination?**

EXPERIENCING GOD TOGETHER

1. Read Romans 8:19-22 together. Paul says "all creation is waiting eagerly" and "groaning" for the day when God's children are revealed and creation is freed from decay.

2. Invite everyone to close their eyes. Ask: "Holy Spirit, help me see glimpses of what the new creation will be like. What are You restoring? What will be made right?"

3. Split into 3's. Share one thing about the new creation that excites you or one question you have about it.

4. Pray for each other: Ask God to expand your eternal perspective and help you live with eager hope for the inheritance He's promised.

PRACTICE FOR THIS WEEK

Rob's invitation: "Think about eternity everyday." He suggested: Talk about it with others. Imagine it. Journal about it. Ask others questions about it. Notice the clues we are given in Scripture about it.

Choose one of these practices to try this week. Read through the examples below for some ideas:

- Set a 5-minute timer each morning and write: "What would it be like if ___ was fully restored in the new creation?" (Fill in: relationships, work, creativity, nature, community, etc.)
- Ask a friend: "What do you think the new creation will actually be like?"
- Read one passage each day that describes the new creation (Revelation 21-22, Isaiah 65:17-25, Romans 8:18-25, 2 Peter 3:13, 1 Corinthians 15:35-58)
- Think about a moment when you experienced real peace—a glimpse of "shalom." What was it? (Could be a meal with friends, a beautiful sunset, a moment of reconciliation, etc.) Now imagine: what if that feeling never ended and only got better?