

Session 6

Re-creation and Hope

Key Point: Living in hope. God will restore our relationships fully and make everything right in the New Creation.

Key Encouragement: This world is not even nearly 'as good as it gets'.

Session Goals:

Pray for each other's family and friends.

Reflect on God's promises for a New Creation.

Recognise that restored relationship with God is the key to all other restored relationships.

Introduction

When we trust that Jesus died for us, our relationship with God is restored. God also promises that Jesus will return to save and to judge, and that when He returns, all our relationships will be restored. God's story is one of hope for God's people.

What key points were made in the video? Did anything stand out for you?

In Session 5 Review we wrote a paragraph about Jesus' work on the cross. Encourage each other by sharing what you wrote.



Train

God's Story: Re-creation

Today's session is about Re-creation. In the last pages of the Bible, God gives us a picture of life in the New Creation, after Jesus returns to save and judge.

Read Revelation 21:1-8, 22:1-5.

1. What is there to look forward to in the New Creation?

2. What pictures are we given of our relationship with:

a. God?

b. each other?

c. the world we will live in?

- 3. How does this future address the deep longings for identity, healing and security that we discussed in the first three stages of God's story?**

- 4. When you imagine life after Jesus returns, how closely does it correspond to the vision in Revelation 21?**

God promises a future where all things will be restored to a right relationship with God their Creator. Sin and its effects (brokenness, death, pain, fear, and judgement) are gone. When we all love the same Lord, and share His heart, we can live well together. Christians wait for the day when Jesus returns, and we'll experience this new life with God and each other, in all its fullness. Having this hope ripples out and shapes every decision we make.

My Story: Hope – What hope is there for the future?

In a world where news stories often focus on looming destruction, people need hope. We need a future that we can dream about, plan for and look forward to. God's story presents us with a beautiful and optimistic future.

How does God's story connect with you personally? Choose one of the following questions to reflect on. Aim to illustrate your answer with a specific example or story from your life. Spend a couple of minutes making some notes about what to share with the group.

- 1. When has knowing Jesus and the future He promises given me hope even though other dreams have disappointed me?**

- 2. Why is the vision of 'world peace' in the New Creation a better, stronger and bigger hope than any other vision of peace offered by the world?**

- 3. How does putting my hope in Jesus' return change the way I make decisions about work or money or relationships or health or ...? What are the 'costs' of doing this and why are they worth it?**

- 4. When I imagine life in the New Creation, what do I look forward to most? Why?**

Share

Share any stories about evangelistic opportunities that God gave you this week. Some might seem like successes; others might feel like failures. Some might be interesting conversations you would like to pray about and then pick up again in the future.

- Which people would you like to share Jesus with next week? When will you talk with them?

Pray

The Lord's message rang out from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia—your faith in God has become known everywhere. Therefore we do not need to say anything about it, for they themselves report what kind of reception you gave us. They tell how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.

1 Thessalonians 1:8-10 (NIV)

Use this passage to guide your prayers for each other and for the family and friends you shared about earlier.

- Praise God for a future of perfect relationships with Him and each other, in a world free of sin, suffering and death.
- Ask God to rescue your family and friends from the coming wrath and for a relationship with Jesus.
- Ask for opportunities to share your story about the God who offers us a beautiful future.
- Thank God and pray for the conversations or friends that people shared about earlier.



Review

1. Watch the Gospel summary '321':
www.youtube.com/watch?v=wf94J3xGIOs
2.
 - a. How does it tell the story of:
 - Creation and Identity. Who am I?
 - Fall and Brokenness. What is wrong with the world?
 - Redemption and Security. How can I be safe in a broken world?
 - Re-creation and Hope. What hope is there for the future?
 - b. What do you like about this Gospel summary?
 - c. Is there anything you don't understand or have questions about?
 - d. Were there any parts of the Gospel summary that particularly resonated with your experience of God? Why?

- e. Would this Gospel presentation be a good 'fit' for any of the friends and family you are praying for?
3. For each of the five people you are praying for regularly, consider how trusting Jesus will give them a better hope for the future than the one they have now.

Summary Table

Key Concepts and Questions for each Gospel theme.

	God's story: How does the Bible answer these questions?	My story: How do I answer these questions? How do my friends answer these questions?
Creation and Identity	<p>What does it mean to be created in God's image?</p> <p>What does God think about us and the world He created?</p>	<p>Who am I? Who are we?</p> <p>What is my purpose?</p> <p>Why do I matter? Why do you matter?</p> <p>How does being created by God bring me joy or rest?</p>
Fall and Brokenness	<p>What is sin and what are its consequences?</p> <p>What went wrong with the world God created?</p>	<p>What is wrong with me (us)?</p> <p>Why is the world so broken?</p> <p>Why can't we fix things?</p> <p>Is God's justice something to look forward to or fear?</p>

<p>Redemption and Security</p>	<p>How does Jesus save us?</p> <p>Why does Jesus save us?</p>	<p>How can I be safe in a broken world?</p> <p>Why am I confident God loves me?</p> <p>What does Jesus save me from?</p> <p>What type of life does Jesus save me (us) for?</p>
<p>Re-creation and Hope</p>	<p>What is the New Creation like?</p> <p>Who is in the New Creation?</p>	<p>What hope is there for the future?</p> <p>What does real peace look like?</p> <p>Is hope naïve or necessary?</p> <p>What do I look forward to when Jesus returns?</p>