



Sermon – 01/15/2023
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Verses Covered
Hebrews 11:3 - 10

Let me invite you to open your Bibles with me to the book of Hebrews this morning. Hebrews chapter 11 is where we're going to find our text today. And if you're a guest joining us for the first time, maybe a student just back for the semester or finding Central for the first time, welcome home. Our heart is to come to God's word and ask Him to shape us. And that's exactly what's going to happen. We're beginning our journey back into Genesis but we're going to start our journey right here in Hebrews. And as you turn to the text, I just wonder. If you were to look back on your life in 2022 and you had one word to describe your year in 2022, what would it be? How would you describe the one word? I imagine for some of you, you might say something like, "It was fireworks. It was amazing! It was positive, joyful. There was so many highs, so many encouraging things." For others of you, you would do it in the opposite direction. Maybe you describe 2022 as a failure, full of disappointments, setbacks, hardships, difficulties. But I imagine for a lot of us, you might look back at something like 2022 and say, "It's not so much fireworks or failure. It's just forgettable. Had some highs and lows, ups and downs. Ran through what I was supposed to do. I did it and I stacked one more year into my life."

But think about book of Genesis with me. We spent most of last year walking through that. We stopped temporarily in Genesis 17 and starting this week and moving forward, we are picking it back up. And if you had to describe the book of Genesis in one word, I wonder how you would do it. See, many of the scholars summarize Genesis with the one word; origin or beginnings. It's our origin story as the people of God. And we all know in our contemporary culture that origin stories are very popular when it comes to books and to movies. That's why for Star Wars fans you have the revenge of the Sith. It's why for you Lord of the Ring fans, you have The Hobbit. It's why for you Harry Potter fans, you have the Sorcerer's Stone. We want to know how things started. Because the way things begin doesn't just affect our past, it shapes our present in a way that directs our future. But as we look at Hebrews, in chapter 11 beginning in verse 3, what we're going to find is that if you ask the author of Hebrews one word to describe the book of Genesis. I think he might add a different one beyond just the word origin. He would use the word faithful. That when he looks at the book of Genesis, what he sees is a faithful God reaching into a faithless world and inviting people to live faithful lives. And what we're going to do this morning is just like we did at the start of our series. This time last year, at the start of our series in Genesis, we began here in

another part of Hebrews 11 and we did an overview of the entire book in one sermon. This morning, we're going to do a recap of where we've come from in Genesis from 1 to 17 in a way that sets the stage for the rest of our time in this powerful text. And what we're going to find today is that Hebrews 11 functions a bit like the picture frame that holds a portrait.

So, not long ago, I was up at my wife, Cami's family's home in Abilene. And I saw all along the wall, pictures of relatives, uncles, grandparents, those who were important. And it says, if Hebrews 11 is like the picture frame that holds a portrait of our spiritual grandparents. Our family tree, our lineage. And with that in mind, let's follow along now at the portrait that this gives us here right in the text beginning in verse 3 of Hebrews 11. Here's what the author says.

³By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so, that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible. ⁴By faith Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain, through which he was commended as righteous, God commending him by accepting his gifts. And through his faith, though he died, he still speaks. ⁵By faith Enoch was taken up so that he should not see death, and he was not found, because God had taken him. Now, before he was taken he was commended as having pleased God. ⁶And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who seek Him. ⁷By faith Noah, being warned by God concerning events as yet unseen, in reverent fear constructed an ark for the saving of his household. By this he condemned the world and became an heir of righteousness that comes by faith. ⁸By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. ⁹By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God.

Let's pray together.

Father, we see in this text that You are the designer. You're the builder. And we're calling out to You this morning, Lord, that You would use this time in Your word to redesign our hearts and more faithfully follow You. That You would use it to build our faith in a way that would call us, cause us to hunger and thirst for righteousness. Lord, I pray that in this time, You would change us and shape us to make us more like Jesus in whose name we pray. Amen.

How many of you by now are familiar with the name Damar Hamlin? Maybe just a couple of weeks ago, you had no idea who he is. But he's a safety for the Buffalo Bills. And I remember a couple of weeks ago watching Monday Night Football with our boys. We had a special focus on it because that was the last game of the championship week of our family Fantasy Football competition. And two of the boys were vying for the championship and they were eager to see which one of them would win. And we all by now have learned what happened. A hit that didn't seemed like it was too intense, struck Damar Hamlin and he rose from the ground only to collapse moments later, his heart failing. Ambulances on the field. The teams gathered around. We all remember that moment. It's as if the world just stopped. It wasn't just that his heart stopped. It pierced the heart of our whole nation. And by God's grace, we've seen tremendous healing in the life of Damar Hamlin. He's been able to not only recover but be released from the hospital. He even had the chance to visit his old teammates this weekend to encourage them before their next

playoff game. But as this happened, it's as if something shifted in our culture at least for a moment. It changed the things that we normally focus on. It changed the things that we typically think about. Instead of being more concerned about playoff seating or fantasy football championships, we were confronted with the reality of the fleeting nature of life. And so often those questions that we ignore or avoid about our priorities, about our society, about our mortality, were brought to the surface. And here's the key reality of what happened in that moment. A turning point transformed our perspectives. You see, that's what turning points do. They change the way we think because they change the questions we're wrestling with. And what we're going to find here in Hebrews 11 is that the author of Hebrews is recording for us several of the turning point moments in the book of Genesis. These types turning points that should transform our perspective. And when he does it, he brings us face to face with the work of a faithful God. And as we see that, it causes us to wrestle with questions that far too often we're willing to ignore or avoid. What we're going to find this morning is Hebrews 11 brings us face to face with the story of Genesis. We need to remember what's taking place here. That Moses is writing this book to Israel. After they've come out of Egypt, they're in the wilderness. They're waiting to go into the Promised Land and he's showing them how God has been faithful through the ages. That He can be trusted to keep His promises. And so he records these stories to a people who are sojourning in a hard situation in danger from enemies all around them. And here we are thousands of years later finding ourselves in the exact same type of place, in a dangerous spot, in the wilderness of a secular culture, surrounded by spiritual enemies. And the same word that Moses gives to God's people then, he is still speaking today.

And what's at the heart of that word? A couple of years ago, my friend Ben Dockery came and preached here at Central. And one of the things he said that has stuck with me is, he said, "The quality of your life is determined by the quality of the questions you ask." And as we come face to face with these turning points in Genesis as they are recounted here in Hebrews 11, it's going to confront us with five big questions. That everyone of us must answer. As we work through these, you'll see them appear up on the screen. And I want you to notice the first one with me. It's what I'll call the origin question. It's the question, how did I get here? How did I get here?

5 Big Questions from Genesis

1. How did I get here?



And when Hebrews 11:3 talks about the creation of the world, it is addressing this origin question. See, we want to know how we got here because it shapes who we are today. And this question of how we got here isn't something that just shows up in a high school science class. It's really at the root of all sorts of things we wrestle with. From the new roommate that wants to get to know the backstory of the person he's now living with. To the job interviewer who's asking you about your resume. To the new dating relationship you have where she wants to know about your family. Everyone of those are origin questions. They want to understand how you got here because that gives a window into who you are. So, how did we get here? What we find from Hebrews 1:3 is that it encapsulates in one verse the picture we get in Genesis 1 and 2 about creation. Because if you look back in Genesis, it speaks about a God who preceded everything that was made in the world. Who forms the universe, who frames the universe, and who fills the universe for a purpose, for a reason. That's why if you look back at Hebrews 1:3, you'll see it speaks about both who created the universe and how it was created. Notice what it says. By faith, we understand that the universe was created by the word of God so that what is not seen was made out of things that were seen. You see, God makes out of nothing. He speaks the world into existence by His word. And with that comes authority to shape the world that He's created. What we know about Genesis is it doesn't just give us a picture of how God created the universe but also how God created you and me. It tells us that we were made in His image. We were called to His mission, both to be fruitful and multiply, to take dominion. This picture that we are supposed to reflect the image of God as we live out the mission of God in order to establish the kingdom of God. And right here, we see that calling, that origin story, that shapes who we are today. So, in just a couple months, some of our college students will jump on a plane to Ireland for our next mission trip to Ireland. And if that's something that interests you as you step back into the semester, there's still a few spots remaining. And when they get on that plane, they'll be seated around the cabin with people that are on that plane for all different reasons. There might be a businessman that's going to conduct meetings. There might be a daughter who's going home to mourn the loss of her grandmother.

There might be, since it's right around Saint Patrick's Day, some Americans who are hopping over to go pub hop from place to place because what better way to honor a Christian missionary who was majorly integral in reaching Great Britain for Jesus than by drinking green beer, apparently. And right next to all of them, here will be our students sent on mission, there to make Jesus known. And in each case, their origin where they come from, shapes where they're going. The businessman for the sake of business, the family woman, for the sake of family, for the partyers, for the sake of partying, for them, for the sake of mission. So we wrestle with that question, how did I get here? Because the answer to that question of our origin shapes the way we see our opportunities.

But there's a second question that comes up here in the text you'll notice it back on the screen beginning in verse 4 is also what I'll call the identity question. That Hebrews is putting in front of us the question, who am I? Who am I?

5 Big Questions from Genesis

1. How did I get here?

2. Who am I?



And we know what it's like to wrestle with that identity question. It is fundamental to how we see ourselves. And we find ourselves running questions about this in all sorts of different ways. It might show up in the middle-schooler who's just trying to figure out how do they fit in in the popular crowd. It might show up in the college student or the young twenty-something who is struggling with their gender identity. It might be encountered by a widow who just lost the love of their life and is trying to figure out, who am I now that he is gone. Every one of those is a question of our identity. So, who are we? Now, you might assume that the author of Hebrews, if he's pointing back to Genesis, would answer that question by looking at Adam and Eve. I mean, after all, they are the first humans. They give us the clearest picture of what God designed life to be like. But instead of focusing on Adam and Eve, we see him turn to Abel. Why is that? It's because what happens in Adam and Eve, if you remember their stories, God establishes him, makes him in his image, raises him up to be rulers of His creation. And they turn away from His calling to the corruption of sin. And what we found last year as we looked at those parts of Genesis is that

that pattern that pulled them away from God's design is the same one at work today. That sin cycle that moves from doubt to deception. And then from deception to disobedience. And then after that disobedience, it fosters in us disgust. And it brings disaster to the world around us. That grips humanity. We are met with brokenness, with the curse, with the fall. And as Hebrews 11 puts in front of us this identity question, who am I? It raises in front of us this man named Abel. And what we'll see back in Hebrews 11 or Hebrews 11:4 is that it's showing us when it comes to the identity question, who am I? Each of us have two ways we can choose to live. Either the way of Cain or the way of Christ.

So, notice what it says back there in verse four. It says at the beginning,

⁴By faith Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain.

So, you remember what happened when we looked at Genesis 4? Abel was a rancher and he smokes the first brisket. He offers that as a sacrifice to God. Cain, on the other hand, he's a farmer and he doesn't bring the ribeye but the Brussels Sprouts and the Broccoli. And rightly, God rejects that offering. Amen? But why does God accept the one and not the other? What is it about Abel's that as the text says there, was acceptable to God. Well, the text tells us. It tells us at the beginning of verse 4, by faith that Abel brought this sacrifice by faith. He had both the right mindset and the right motive. He understood that in a broken, fallen world that there is no forgiveness except through the shedding of blood. He came face to face with the choice about his identity and he chose the way of Christ. That way of sacrifice. That way of bloodshed. That way of living to please God. We're so often faced with that same question, how will we live? Where will we find our identity? See, the world around us will tell us that we should find our identity in the way that can be found through pleasing others. So, we live our lives finding our identity in our success, our significance, our satisfaction, all the accomplishments and the accolades. But that's the way of Cain. That's the way away from Jesus. The way of Christ, the way of Abel, the way of the cross is one of dying to yourself, laying down the desire to please the world so that instead you might please God. And when you find yourself following in that way, then what it will remind you of is that if you know Jesus, your identity is now in Christ.

Which brings us to the third question that Hebrews 11 puts in front of us. It's the purpose question. It's the question, we'll ask you like this, why do I exist? Why do I exist?

5 Big Questions from Genesis

1. How did I get here?
2. Who am I?
3. Why do I exist?



What's my purpose in life? And what we'll find is that in the story of this man named Enoch, we see the answer to that question. You know, there's so many that wrestle with the meaning of life in all sorts of ways ranging from the high school senior in the room who's struggling with, should I go to this college or that college and they've got the the notebook out, listing out pros and cons as they wrestle with it. Or maybe it's the college graduate who's seeking their first job. Or maybe it's the person who's in the prime of their life, it seems like to everybody else. But they're thinking about going out and buying the red Corvette because they're struggling with some sort of mid-life crisis. Every one of those moments is a moment where we're wrestling with our meaning. Where we're pondering our purpose. Where we're wondering why we exist. So why do we exist? What we find in the story of Enoch is the answer to that question. Remember, Enoch shows up after Cain and Abel. See, they take place in Genesis 4 and then in Genesis 5, we see the first genealogy in the Bible. We spend several weeks at different points looking at those genealogies. And what we realize is that in the midst of trying to pronounce these hard names and trying hard to understand the purposes of these passages, we see the reason that they're there, that the genealogies in the Bible exist to show us that God is faithful to keep His promises. That from Adam onward, the promise He's made to raise up a seed of the woman who would crush the head of the serpent will come true. And name after name after name we can't pronounce is right there in the middle of Genesis 5. It says, this person fathered this person and then he died. This person fathered this person then he died. And he goes, repetition after repetition after repetition until you get to this man named Enoch. And he breaks the script. His story is different. It tells us that he walked with God. In fact, he walked with God so faithfully that Genesis 5 tells us, he didn't die. That instead, God saw fit to take him up to the heavens because of his faithful walk before Him. Because of the way he pleased Him. And notice the way back in Hebrews 11:5 that the author talks about what happens with Enoch. It gives us a window into why we exist. It helps us to see what our purpose in this life is. He says this.

⁵By faith Enoch was taken up so that he should not see death, and he was not found, because God had taken him. Now before he was taken he was commended as having pleased God.

So think about what the author of Hebrews is doing here, there's this escalation. So, with Abel, he pleases God once through a sacrifice. But now with Enoch, he pleases God not just one time with his sacrifice, but he pleases him with his sacrificial life. Not just with his sacrificial worship but with his sacrificial walk. There's this picture here that he walks with God. He's commended. He pleases Him. In fact, so pleased that God receives him into His presence. So, as we start 2023, if you want to know what God's purpose for your life is, it's simple. It's to live in a way that pleases Him. It's to walk in a manner worthy of the Gospel. It's to die to yourself daily so that you might live the type of life that Enoch lived out. A life where our purpose is not found in our work but in our walk. It's not discovered on the basis of our credentials but our character. It's not defined by pleasing others but pleasing God alone. That's the heart behind our walk with Jesus. One of the things that I couldn't help but notice in the unfolding story with Damar Hamlin is it seemed to awaken a underlying current of faith in our culture and in the NFL. And so I came across a story of a man who serves as the Buffalo Bills Chaplain who had spent time with Damar Hamlin leading up to that. His name's Lynn. And Lynn invested in Damar and the rest of the team. And in the aftermath of that, there he was on the field praying with these players. There he was on the field encouraging them. There he was in the hospital room, coming alongside Damar and his family. And in those moments, you knew how clearly he was living out the purpose for why God had him in that place. But maybe that's easy for us to understand when a chaplain rallies to those he's called to serve when it's in crisis. But maybe it's harder for you to see that purpose when it comes to your role as a student. Or you're nine-to-five job. Or your place in retirement. When all those other pieces of your identity have now been stripped away. And what this text is reminding us of is the reality that no matter where God has you, He desires to use you to live a life that pleases Him. To live a life that pours itself out for others, to live a life that embodies the way of Enoch as we walk faithfully in the way of Jesus.

But what we're going to find here in the fourth question that comes up beginning down in verse 7 is that that challenge to live for God's purpose is a lot harder than we would like it to be. Which brings us to face to faith with that fourth question. It's what I'll call the reality question. And the reality question is this, why is life so hard? Why is life so hard?

5 Big Questions from Genesis

1. How did I get here?
2. Who am I?
3. Why do I exist?
4. Why is life so hard?



All of us living in a broken world. We see the effects of sin all around us. And so often we find ourselves wrestling with this question, why? I've been face to face with it this week. Sitting in the home of someone outside our church who I care for deeply, who had just found out the heartbreaking news that their spouse had been unfaithful to them. And they're sitting there asking why. Sitting yesterday in the living room of one of our senior saints in our church whose cancer has ravaged her body so greatly that the doctors have said there's basically nothing else we can do for you except for to keep you comfortable along the way. And she is not wrestling with why. Instead, she's looking to that heavenly destination to come. How do we make sense of that? In the hardships of life. When the difficulties hit us, when the breadwinner gets the pink slip, when the cancer survivor discovers that it is now back, how do we answer that question? Why is this life so hard? How long, oh Lord? Why do I have to endure this? And Hebrews 11 shows us that Genesis provides that answer in part through the picture of this man named Noah. If there's anybody that knows hardship, it would be someone like Noah. I mean, after all, God called them to build a boat the size of Kyle Field in the equivalent location of placing it out in West Texas. That's how far it was from the water. It made no sense if you were walking by sight. And he endured all sorts of hardship. He endured hardship before built the boat from a culture that was evil in sin and it turned away from God. He encountered hardship during the building of the boat because of how difficult the task was and how hostile those around him likely were. And we know even when he stepped on the boat, he still endured hardship. Because he encountered the storms of judgement that raged all around him. So, no one knows what it's like to be face to face with the difficulties of this world. What can sustain us? What can enable us to keep pressing on when we get that terrible call from the doctor, we get that disappointing news from our boss or we had that difficult conversation with somebody where we're not even sure the friendship is going to survive it. Look back at Hebrews 11:7. It gives us the answer to this question by showing us the reason for our righteousness in the midst of hardship. It says,

⁷By faith Noah, being warned by God concerning events as yet unseen, in reverent fear constructed an ark for the saving of his household. By this he condemned the world and became an heir of the righteousness that comes by faith.

So, how do we survive those hard moments in life? In the same way that Noah did. What the text tells us here is that Noah had an unwavering faith in an unseen future because he was trusting in an unstoppable God. And that same invitation is there for you and for me. One of the things we learn in our lives is that when we face adversity, it either causes us to turn away from God and turn inward in self-reliance or it causes us to turn toward God and upward in dependence on Him. And what Hebrews 11 is reminding us of this morning as we face trials is that God is in the business of forcing dependence on Himself. And the reason that's true is because He is willing to allow whatever it takes in your life to make you more like Jesus. If our Lord Jesus Christ suffered on this Earth, how could we wonder why it's happening to us? It's a broken world. But God is allowing that broken world to round off the rough edges of our heart to shape and to mold and to fashion us more and more into the image of Jesus Christ.

Which brings us to the last question we'll find here in the text starting down in verse 8. It's what I'll call the lifestyle question. And the question is this, how should I live? How should I live? In light of my origin, in light of my identity, in light of my purpose, in light of all the hardship around me, how should I live today?

5 Big Questions from Genesis

- 1. How did I get here?**
- 2. Who am I?**
- 3. Why do I exist?**
- 4. Why is life so hard?**
- 5. How should I live?**



I mean, this question comes up all the time for us. I mean, think about it. Some of you freshmen in the room at A&M or Blinn who finally got freedom from your parents and had to figure out when you're on your own and nobody's watching, how are you going to live? Or for you twenty somethings who had walked away from the Lord for a season and you're wrestling now as the new year starts with whether or not you're going to turn your life to fully focus on Him and settle down for the sake of the Gospel, you're wrestling with how you should live. Everyone of us will find

ourselves struggling with an understanding of, in this moment what does it look like to honor God with our life? And we see no greater picture in Genesis of the answer to that question than right here in the life of Abraham, beginning in verse eight. Because what we find with Abraham is not that he was a great man, but that he had enduring faith in a great God. Remember the story of Abraham. He goes from being the son of a pagan to the son of a promise. That God calls him in Genesis 12. God covenants with him in Genesis 15. God confirms that covenant in Genesis 17. He sets him up as the people of the promise. And what happens is that each step of the way, God is showing him how to live. So, when look back at verses 8 through 10 with me, what you're going to notice is that if we want to answer the question, how should we live as followers of Jesus in a broken world, the life of Abraham shows us at least three things. So, you'll notice the first one in verse 8 as it starts with our devotion. It says there,

⁸By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going.

So, what it mean is the essence of devotion is a deep faith that shows up in obedience even in the midst of uncertainty. But it's not just our devotion. You also see in the life of Abraham, the call to embrace our dependence. So, look at verse 9 there. It says,

⁹By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise.

And the essence of that dependence is a relying on God. Everything stripped away from him. He leaves behind his family, his homeland, his comfort. He goes into this unfamiliar place and in the midst of that, when everything is stripped away, he finds himself living in a way that pleases God because he's depending on the power of God. But there's one other thing you need to see here at the end of the text in verse 10. It also points to our destination. So, notice what it says.

¹⁰For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God.

In other words, Abraham is reminding us that the spiritual destination is worth the journey. That these light and momentary afflictions we experience on this Earth are nothing compared to the eternal weight of glory that God has for us awaiting us in the heavens through Jesus Christ. That's why I can sit across the room from a woman in her late seventies weeks away from dying from cancer. Her body shriveled up. And she can look at me and with absolute conviction say, "I'm not scared of dying. I don't feel sorry for myself because I know where I'm going. I know what lays ahead." And no matter what hardships come in your life, whether now or in the future, you and I can say that same thing. And the reason we can find answers to these questions is hidden in a verse right here in this middle this passage that we haven't yet looked at. Look back with me at Hebrews 11:6. Because what the author of Hebrews shows us is that at the heart of your answer to each of these questions must be faith. And notice how he talks about faith there in verse 6. He says,

⁶Without faith it is impossible to please God, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who seek Him.

So, what's the key? How do we find the answers? Hebrews 11 is building off the truths of Genesis to show us that they are found in Jesus Christ alone. And think about who this Jesus is for us. Hebrews 11:3 tells us how God spoke the world into existence by the word of God. And what we find in the New Testament is Jesus is the word of God who brings about creation and brings about the rescue of His people. We see here in Hebrews 11 this picture that Jesus is the new and better Abel. Abel comes as a shepherd. He sacrifices one of the lambs to make it offering that God counts once for his righteousness. But Jesus comes as new and better Abel. The Good Shepherd, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world through His body, sacrifice on the cross, He makes a offering for us not just once but once and for all. He's the new and better Enoch. We see in Genesis the way that Enoch walked with God and it pleased God so much he was taken up into the heavens. And what we find in Jesus as the new and better Enoch, he doesn't just walk with God, he walks as God. He lives a life that is sinless, that is perfect, that is completely pleasing to God so that through His death and following His resurrection, after He's defeated satan, sin, and death, God was pleased to welcome him into His presence. Jesus is the new and better Noah. We see how Noah goes through the waters of judgement in a boat, in an instrument of wood, and it's pointing forward to a new and better Noah that is to come in Christ. Who goes through the waters of judgement in a instrument of wood, lashed to a cross, dying in our place to cancel the debt of the sin that we owed. And Jesus is a new and better Abraham. We see that Abraham, that God brings Abraham from a far country. He gives him a covenant full of promises to bring about a new people, living out a new purpose in a new place. And what we find in Jesus, the new and better Abraham, the son of Abraham, is that all of those promises find their yes in Him. He brings about a new people, His church. He ushers in a new place, His new creation. And He calls us into a new purpose to follow Him.

So, as we get ready to step back in to Genesis, let's wrestle with these five questions. Let's find our answer in Jesus alone because He is our only hope.

Will you pray with me?

Father, Your word tells us that apart from You, we can do nothing. We find too many times in this life that we're distracted from You. We turn our hearts away. We seek for things that won't last. Lord, I pray that as we come face to face with each of these five big questions. Lord, if there are people in this room who genuinely don't know the answer, who are still searching. God, would You open their eyes to see the truth today? Would You help us to encounter Jesus in a new way? Would You help us to live out the design that You have called us to? And may we do it in a way that honors Christ in whose name we pray Amen.