

# SCRIPTURE CARD GUIDE FOR GROUP DISCUSSION

"THE REDEMPTION OF CREATION" APRIL 14

## SERIES OVERVIEW:

Could it be that our thinking about heaven, the resurrection and how we follow Jesus as the church are leading us to places that Jesus never intended? What would it look like to recapture Biblical Hope by truly understanding the power of the resurrection and the hope of the future, even as we wait for Jesus to come again.

*Follow the directions below for a guided group discussion with a friend, in a family, small group, etc. Grab a Scripture Card (printed or electronic) and simply follow steps from 1 to 6 on this page and the next.*

1

### PRAY

*About 1 minute*

Open with prayer.

2

### BIG IDEA

*A minute to read*

As we wait for Jesus is the world getting better or is it getting worse or is there something else going on? For followers of Jesus, people who are filled with real Hope, we believe that when Jesus comes again He is going to do for the whole Cosmos what He did at Easter. Until that day comes, empowered by Jesus we will continue to find all of our hope in Him.

3

### CONNECT

*About 10 minutes*

The good and groaning of creation...

Share something beautiful in creation that makes you marvel at God and what He has made.

How do you see creation groaning under the curse of sin?



**April 14, 2024**

“Against its will, all creation was subjected to God’s curse. But with eager hope, the creation looks forward to the day when it will join God’s children in glorious freedom from death and decay.” – Romans 8:20-21 NLT

**Reflect**

**A prayer to start...**Father, as I read your word, please open my ears to hear and my heart to surrender to your purposes today.

**Read the full passage in your Bible - Romans 8:18-25**

Is the world getting better or worse? What do you notice about creation?

Have you noticed any groaning going on in you for something more, something better? What does Jesus promise regarding this in the passage?

What might redemption and renewal look like in creation? How about in your life?

4

### DISCIPLE LIFE DISCUSSION

*About 45-50 minutes. Read the Scripture above and discuss the questions there. Additional questions below.*

Romans 8 does not describe the un-making of creation or it steadily getting better, it is a dramatic new birth out of the old, it is full redemption and restoration both spiritually and physically. What physical redeeming and restoring do you hope for in creation? In your body?

Read 1 Cor 15:20, 1 Cor 15:28, 1 Cor 15:54-55, and Phil 3:20-21. What do you learn about Jesus here? What do you learn about our bodies? What does it look like in the way we think and act, to be eagerly, patiently, and confidently waiting for Christ's return? How do we live as citizens of the Kingdom of heaven here on earth today?

Read Revelation 21:1-7. Heaven and earth are not meant to be separated, but to be one. God comes to be with His people and make His home with us. Is this the same or different from how you have thought of eternity? What hope do you receive from this passage?



### DISCUSSION HELP:

Use follow-up questions to take the discussion deeper. Guide answers to be honest and real.

**Can you say more about that?**

**How have you seen that play out in your life?**

**What does that stir up in you?**

**Has anyone else had a similar thought or experience?**

**What might God be inviting you to do?**

**5 PRAY:**  
*About 15 minutes*

Read the prayer prompts and allow for a time of reflection. Share prayer requests and pray for the person on your LEFT in a circle prayer now. The leader or apprentice may close in prayer.

# THE [DISCIPLE] LIFE

## Pray

Turn to God and use the previous question as a springboard for prayer. Maybe it's gratitude or maybe it's something else. Take the risk to be honest with God.

Talk to God about any myths you may be believing about evil and this life or heaven and the future.

Who is someone you know who needs redemption and renewal in Jesus? Pray for them today.

## Live It Out

*Followers of Jesus could be called people who are bringing a taste of heaven to earth (see the Lord's prayer and "Thy kingdom come..."). What might that look like in your life this week? Ask Jesus and take one simple step to live this out.*

**Jesus, thank you for inviting me  
into this LIFE of following you today!**

**6****LIVE IT OUT:***About 2 minutes*

Read the "Live It Out" section and invite the group to take the steps noted.