



## **WK 4 CC CONNECT GROUP STUDY //**

**Date:** Week Beginning 25.02.18

**Topic:** The Thin Space

**Speaker:** Nicole Gorzalka

### **STUDY 4 // THE THIN SPACES**

A thin space is a place where the distance between heaven and earth feels thinner.

God seems closer.

You feel more at peace and confident.

The mindset of most people is that heaven and earth are separated by a considerable distance. That being said, at certain times, some places on earth just seem to be thin in the sense that the separation between heaven and earth is reduced.

My thin space is our beach at Long Beach up the south end. This is the place where the distance between myself and God seems to narrow.

- The sand beneath my feet.
- The rocks and the sea washing over them.
- The sun rising in the morning.
- The waves coming onto the shore.

These beach walk experiences cause me to feel like eternity is less than an arms length away.

However, through the years I have also had thin space experiences in my car, at coffee shops, in restaurants and quite often at funerals. These are nearby, faraway places where the perceived distanced between ourselves and God shrinks.

These are places where the world melts away.



## READ GENESIS 2:1-24 //

My thin spaces are usually experienced in the morning and are usually associated with seasons of rest or retreat. But as I open my Bible to the book of Genesis and the Garden of Eden, I believe God's purpose was for all the world, at all times, to be a thin space. A place where human beings could experience closeness with Him.

Thin experiences could be realised during times of work, rest or play.

My guess is most of us would associate a thin space with a quiet place. A place where we are free, at least temporarily, from cellphones, computers, colleagues, work pressures, relentless demands and expectations. But what if you and I are meant to experience proximity with God whether we are at work, rest or play?

What if we didn't have to "retreat" to feel close to God?

The Garden of Eden, the original thin space, was a place where people rested, played and were productive. This causes me to wonder if thin spaces are not so much the byproduct of quiet escape and retreat as they are a byproduct of awareness and curiosity.

Curious people become aware that thin spaces exist everywhere.

They train themselves to seek thin spaces in the every day experiences of life.

As Brother Lawrence, a 17th century monk wonders, is it possible to practice the presence of God all day long?

Is the veil between heaven and earth actually much thinner than we think right where we sit? Right now?

People who find thin spaces and places are those who are looking for them.



## **SUNDAY SERMON PERSONAL //**

Whether you were at Cross Central on Sunday, or you watched the sermon on our youtube channel, what are some discussion points that stuck out to you, that you would like to share with the group?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

## **SCRIPTURE READING & DISCUSSION //**

### ***Read & Discuss Jeremiah 29:4-7***

Israel are in exile during this time. What does God tell them to do?  
How do you think this atmosphere helps or hinders thin spaces?

### ***Read & Discuss Jeremiah 29:8-10***

Sometimes people say what they think we want to hear, what does God say about the prophets who are speaking to Israel?  
How long does God tell them they must be in captivity in Babylon?

### ***Read & Discuss Jeremiah 29:11-14***

Discuss what verse 11 means in light of their current condition?  
What is God's promise in verse 12 and how does this affect our awareness of thin spaces?  
What are the conditions of finding God (vs 13)?

## **ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION //**

Do you know who finds sand dollars on the beach?

Those who are looking for sand dollars on the beach!

Could it be that thin places and spaces are all around us?

Could it be that God is as close as we want Him to be?

Share some of your thin space experiences?

*(This study adapted from Todd Clark's blog - <http://livecurious.ly/recognize-thin-space-god/>)*



