



This series explores how we, as followers of Jesus, think about and care for creation. The final week of our series considers the future of creation following Steve's talk on the 29th Sep, 24.

STARTER: Where have you seen God's fingerprints in your life this week?

- 1) To what extent do you feel like you know the end of your story? How does that feel?
- 2) Have you ever heard people talk about the specifics of the 'end times'? If you have, what do you think about all that?

Read Genesis 3:17-18

- 3) In what way is the ground cursed do you think? How does it affect you?
- 4) Why do you think that the ground is implicated in the sin of Adam?

Read Romans 8:18-25

- 5) In what way do we see the 'curse of Genesis 3 being reversed' in this passage?
- 6) What do you think Paul means by saying the creation was 'frustrated'? v20 What is the promise held out for creation?
- 7) How will that affect you too?

Read 2 Peter 3:10-13 Sometimes people talk about the earth being destroyed and God giving us a brand new earth or whisking us off to an ethereal heaven. Passages like 2 Peter 3 are often cited. Take a look.

- 8) Peter talks about the everything being destroyed by fire (v10-11) before making everything new. Back in v6 he uses the same term for destruction when talking about the world being destroyed by the flood (in the time of Noah). In what way do you consider the world to have been destroyed in the flood episode? How might that help when considering Peter's language about destruction in v10 and 11.
- 9) V13 talks about looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth. Now **read Revelation 21:1-5:**
- 10) What stands out to you from this passage? How does it make you feel?
- 11) John picks up this language of new heaven and earth, echoing Isaiah 65:17, and 2 Pet 3:13. Last week we considered the specific word 'new' understanding it as renewed or transformed rather than replaced. What difference does that make when considering creation care, our human dignity and joining in with God's work?

As we come to the end of this creation care series, take some time to reflect on how the series has been for you and your group:

- Have there been any new insights or things that God has highlighted?
- Have there been any actions that you've taken or still want to take?
- What do you think, and how do you feel about the climate emergency?

Final Prayers

- Is there anything that today's study has thrown up that you need to pray into?
- Are there any other things for which people would like prayer?
- Lift one another up to God for the week ahead.