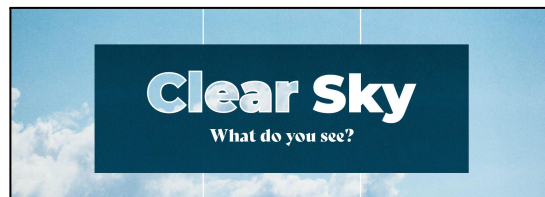


## CLEAR SKY | WEEK 1

**Date:** June 25, 2023

**Verses:** Romans 12:2; Ephesians 4:22-24; Colossians 3:1-2



### SERIES INSIGHT

In the series **Clear Sky**, we're asking the question *What Do You See?* with the goal over the next few weeks to inspire and invigorate hope within each of us despite the time and the season of our lives.

***Note to Leader/Reader:** Throughout this series, we are doing something a little different. The sermon questions below will be relatively the same for each message as each is its own stand-alone message. The same questions may be applied for each message and are designed to help participants think and consider more about the message and help make practical application to their week.*

### ICEBREAKER

- Share one of your fondest summer memories!

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. **Review the Message.** Looking back at your notes and upon reflecting on this weekend's message, what was your one takeaway from Sunday?
2. What did you sense was the main topic of this week's message?
3. What were the top 3 thoughts, ideas, or challenges that you identified from this message?
4. In what way(s) did this message inspire hope in you? Share it with the group.
5. Was there anything shared this weekend that was unique, different, or unexpected? How so?
6. In what way(s) might you live out this inspired hope this week? Is there anything that might hold you back from doing so well?
7. Who can you share with this week something that you learned/gleaned from this message?
8. How can this group pray for you as you walk this out and seek to apply this message to your life?

### PRAYER

Allow people to share requests and celebrate any praise reports as well. Consider having someone write down the requests to share with the group. Take time to pray however long your group needs.



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## 8 SIGNS OF A TRANSFORMED MIND

Use this list as a personal "check-in" this week. Consider hanging these up somewhere or having them in an easy to access place. Then this week, consider taking one and working on them between you and the Holy Spirit. Remember, you can't transform your life, but you *can* change your mind! And if you'll change your mind, God will transform your life!

### 1. YOU LIVE IN HOPE.

Any thought in your mind that doesn't inspire or produce hope is under the influence of a lie. The litmus test for truth is God's Word. So anything that isn't founded in God's Word or that produces hope because of God's word, is under the influence or rooted in a lie. Let this be a filter for your mind.

### 2. YOU LIVE IN HARMONY AND PEACE WITH OTHERS.

Paul tied the bow on this one for us in Romans 12:16-18 when he urges us to: "Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited. Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone."

### 3. YOUR INNER DIALOGUE IS POSITIVE AND OPERATES WITH THAT OUTLOOK.

The narrative you tell yourself impacts the life that you live. A sound mind is a sober mind. It demonstrates that our lives are under control and we're not running aimlessly, but rather with a purpose in mind! Timothy tells us: "God gave us a SPIRIT not of fear but of power and love and a sound mind." (2 Tim. 1:7). Does our dialogue and how we operate reveal that the peace of Christ rules our hearts?

### 4. YOU LIKE YOURSELF AND ARE CONFIDENT IN WHO YOU ARE.

Our self-esteem flows from what we actually believe about ourselves, which then reflects what we think of God. If we are not confident in our identity in Christ, we will struggle to live out our identity in Christ!

### 5. YOU LIVE OUT OF WHAT IS TRUE, NOT JUST WHAT FEELS TRUE.

What you know trumps how you feel. Therefore, we will struggle to renew our minds if we allow what we know to be dictated *solely* by what we feel. Our feelings are great servants, but terrible masters. Our minds will remain a mess unless we choose to think God's thoughts here on Earth as it is in Heaven.

### 6. YOUR LIFE IS CHARACTERIZED BY JOY.

"For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit." (Rom. 14:17). In other words, a heart that is yielded to God lives for an audience of One. The hope of Jesus for you characterizes the Spirit-filled life within you. Are you known for your joy?

### 7. YOU ARE QUICK TO FORGIVE, EXTENDING GRACE AND MERCY TO OTHERS.

Forgiveness doesn't mean that we forget; but it does mean that we release ourselves from the bondage of the past and the plausibilities of the "what ifs". Extending mercy to others means "They DON'T get what they deserve."; extending grace means, "They get what they DON'T deserve." How powerful!

### 8. YOU LIVE LIKE A VICTOR, NOT LIKE A VICTIM.

There is a fight for our soul. And more often than not, the battle for our lives is won or lost in our minds. Remember "He who is in us is GREATER than he who is in the world" (1 Jn. 4:4). Therefore, in Christ, we have power against the enemy to demolish strongholds, arguments, and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God by taking "captive every thought and making it obedient to Christ" (2 Cor. 10:5).