

# sermon discussion

## LISTEN TO THIS MESSAGE

Live stream at [OBCC.online.church](https://OBCC.online.church); access a video of the service on Facebook or YouTube.

## MAIN POINTS & KEY SCRIPTURES

We will learn to “mind the gap.”

*What is the gap?*

1 Peter 1:1–2

The gap is a Christian's journey to Eden.

- Colossians 1:21–22
- Matthew 5:11–12

God planned the gap for our good, so keep your mind on it.

- 1 Peter 1:2
- Romans 8:28

When you mind the gap, God will improve you.

- 1 Peter 1:2
- Romans 5:2–4

When we mind the gap, we show our passion for Jesus.

- 1 Peter 1:2

When we mind the gap suffering shows our purpose.

- 1 Peter 1:2

*May grace and peace be multiplied to you.*

We all long for home, will you receive the grace and peace?

## GROUP DISCUSSION

1. Picture yourself in this scenario – you have been stuck on the side of a remote mountain in the wilderness for two days. You look down the mountain and see the rescue team assembling. You know help is approaching, but not how long it will take. How would you feel? What thoughts and emotions would run through your mind as you eagerly await rescue?
2. **Read 1 Peter 1:1-2, James 1:1, Acts 2:5-11.** What is meant by the phrase "elect exiles of the Dispersion"? In what ways do Christians resemble the concept of being "exiles" in this world?
3. **Read Romans 12:2; Hebrews 11:13-16, 1 John 2:15-17.** How are we to act and engage with the world and culture around us?
4. The parable of the prodigal son in Luke 15:11-32 reflects a theme of relational exile and return. How can you use this parable to deepen your understanding of God's desire to reconcile his creation and bring us out of relational exile? What role does repentance and turning back to God play in the process of ending our relational exile and reestablishing a close connection with Him?
5. Can you identify moments in your life when you've felt a sense of exile or separation from God? How did you navigate these experiences, and what did you learn from them?
6. Who in your life might be experiencing a sense of spiritual exile or distance from God? How can you engage in conversations about faith and offer the hope of redemption through Christ?

## GOING FURTHER

**MEMORIZE:** *But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.*  
Philippians 3:20 (NIV)

**WATCH:** Video about exile in the Bible <https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/exile/>

**LISTEN:** Podcast series <https://bibleproject.com/podcast/series/exile-series/>