

WEEK 13 | CREATION RESTORED

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT...

- “Be my witnesses and make disciples, empowered by the Holy Spirit to live as the Church, as God continues writing His love story through our lives—until Jesus returns to restore all things.”
- Jesus was clear about the mission...go make disciples, baptizing them and teaching them to observe all that he commanded.
- Jesus promised the Holy Spirit as the means, the power, to be able to accomplish His mission. He was faithful to keep his promise and we have been given this amazing gift...God's presence with us in the Holy Spirit, empowering us to accomplish the mission he has given us. Empowering us to live the life He called us to live!
- We are not here alone...Jesus has established His CHURCH to glorify Him, to make Him known and to love each other so that the world would know that the Father has sent the Son! Living life together, in unity, in love, serving each other and encouraging each other will bring glory to Jesus. And as we do that the Lord will add to the family of faith those who are being saved!
- God is not finished writing His story...he continues to write it in us, in our own lives as we demonstrate and declare the gospel to others, particularly your ONE!
- Jesus said “I am coming again!”. There is coming a day when Jesus will return and everything will be made new, all will be accomplished and we will live forever in peace and in His glory! What a day that will be!

THINGS TO READ ABOUT...

Acts 1-2 || Matthew 28:16-20 || Revelation 21-22

Verses of the Bible to memorize:

“16 The eleven disciples traveled to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had directed them. 17 When they saw him, they worshiped, but some doubted. 18 Jesus came near and said to them, “All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth. 19 Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” — MATTHEW 28:16-20

“17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, and see, the new has come! 18 Everything is from God, who has reconciled us to himself through Christ and has given us the ministry of reconciliation. 19 That is, in Christ, God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and he has committed the message of reconciliation to us. 20 Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us. We plead on Christ's behalf, “Be reconciled to God.” 21 He made the one who did not know sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.” — 2 CORINTHIANS 5:17-21

MATERIAL FOR PERSONAL OR GROUP DISCUSSION...

"Be my witnesses and make disciples, empowered by the Holy Spirit to live as the Church, as God continues writing His love story through our lives—until Jesus returns to restore all things."

A. THE PURPOSE (MISSION): BE GOD'S WITNESSES AND MAKE DISCIPLES...

1. Have you embraced your identity as God's WITNESS?
2. As and AMBASSADOR OF JESUS, are you living your life appropriately separated from the patterns of this world and living as a citizen of the Kingdom of Heaven?
3. Are you actively serving Jesus by allowing Him to "make his appeal" through you as one who has been given the ministry of reconciliation?

B. THE POWER: EMPOWERED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT...

1. If you had to evaluate your life right now, would it be marked by the fruit of the flesh or the fruit of the Holy Spirit?
2. Do you find that you struggle with trying to do God's work in your own power? Why do we struggle with that?
3. What would it look like if you were surrendered to the Holy Spirit, allowing him to guide you, empower you as you walked in step with Him in your daily life?
4. What have you asked the Holy Spirit to do regarding the power He has to offer you in the work you have been called to do?

C. THE PEOPLE: TO LIVE AS THE CHURCH...

1. Are you actively a part of a family of believers? We encourage being a part of a Missional Community to live out our identity as a part of the local church...are you in one or pursuing one?
2. As was described in Acts 2, are you experiencing that kind of community, unity, fellowship? What would it take to be that kind of church? What would you need to do? What would others need to do for you?
3. Are you devoting yourself to the teaching of God's word, to the fellowship of believers, to the sharing of meals and worshiping God together and praying with other believers? These were the basic things that the first century church were doing...it was what they did to be the church and it should be what we are doing too!

D. THE ONGOING LOVE STORY: AS GOD CONTINUES WRITING HIS LOVE STORY THROUGH OUR LIVES...

1. Are you seeing people regularly giving their lives to Jesus, being saved and added to the fellowship of believers at Creekside Church? Share those stories with others so we can celebrate!
2. Are you actively pursuing your ONE, demonstrating and declaring the gospel to them so that they might find the love and forgiveness of Jesus?
3. Do you see how awesome it is to know the Story of God and realize that you are a part of His ongoing love story? What an awesome thing!

E. JESUS IS COMING AGAIN: UNTIL JESUS RETURNS TO RESTORE ALL THINGS...

1. Some day, everything will be made right again. God will restore all things and make them new. A new Heaven, a new Earth, restored from the damage of sin from the first garden and now perfect like it was meant to be. What are you looking forward to when Jesus returns for us and sets up His kingdom?