

Session 6: New Heavens & New Earth



INTRODUCTION

This fourth scriptural segment looks at how God promises to transform all of creation in the new heavens and new earth through the resurrection of Christ. As citizens of this promise, Christians are called to be holy foretastes, living previews of this final act of redemption

“As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them.” —Luke 24:15

EMMAUS ROAD REFLECTION

1. What has God been saying to me through this episode (e.g. encouragement, challenge)?
2. What was significant or new? What questions did it raise?

DISCUSSION

1. Why did Vincent feel so helpless? Where have you experienced a sense of hopelessness when seeing the brokenness of the world around us?
2. What are common cultural pictures of heaven? How do these pictures compare with Christ's resurrection and the promise of our own resurrection?
3. Was there anything from the session that was new, significant, or raised questions for you, related to your understanding of heaven?
4. How does the promise of the new heavens and the new earth make a difference today? How might it make a difference for what we do now?

ACTIVITY

We live between Jesus' resurrection and the promise of new heavens and new earth; the Kingdom is here but not fully. This means we experience tension—difficult moments when we encounter the world as it was not meant to be. However, God promises that our labour is not in vain and Jesus' resurrection is God's ultimate commitment to restore all of his creation and dwell with us.

Pray for the brokenness around you: a difficult job situation, a hurting friend or colleague, a struggling neighbourhood, broken institutions and systems in our society and world. Remember God's resurrection promise that through Christ, everything will be made new. Consider saying a prayer in those places of brokenness, or as you begin each day.