

Small Group Curriculum • Genesis 2 • UNALONE

UNALONE • WEEK 1 • Genesis 2

This week we explore the concept of spiritual homesickness, recognize our longing for permanence, presence, pleasure, and peace, and understand that these longings point us toward a relationship with God.

REMINDERS

- Interested in being baptized the Sunday after Easter? Sign up [here](#).
- Looking for a place to serve? Try serving on set-up or tear-down once-a-month with the Space Team. Email layth@awakeningchurch.com for more information.
- Our café team is in need of volunteers. Would you be willing to serve once a month to offer care and hospitality to our guests and church family? Email bailey@awakeningchurch.com for more information.

Past Session Check-In:

- Take a moment and review the application from your last discussion. Ask the group where they were challenged, if they made any commitment for change and/or action, and if they followed through with their decision.

ICEBREAKER

Begin with a brief icebreaker question:

- "What is a place that holds a special 'home' feeling for you? It doesn't have to be where you currently live."

INTRODUCTION

Read the following quote aloud:

- "Our life-long nostalgia, our longing to be reunited with something in the universe from which we feel cut off, to be on the inside of some door which we have always seen from the outside, is no mere neurotic fancy, but the truest index of our real situation." - C.S. Lewis, Mere Christianity

Ask:

- "What resonates with you from this quote? Have you ever felt this longing?"
- "The notes say we are all spiritually homesick. What does that mean to you?"

DISCUSSION

Longing for Permanence:

Have someone read Genesis 2:8 aloud.

- "What does the Garden of Eden represent in terms of permanence?"

AWAKENING

- "How does the world we live in now often disappoint our desire for things to last?"

Have someone read John 14:2-3 aloud.

- "How does Jesus' promise of a place in His Father's house speak to our longing for permanence?"

Longing for Presence:

Have someone read Genesis 2:7 aloud.

- "What is significant about God breathing life into Adam? What kind of relationship does that suggest?"
- "In what ways do we experience a lack of connection or presence in our daily lives?"

Have someone read Matthew 28:20 aloud.

- "How does Jesus' promise to be with us always address our longing for presence?"

Longing for Pleasure:

Have someone read Genesis 2:9 aloud.

- What does the description of the Garden of Eden tell us about God's desire for us to experience joy and pleasure?"
- "How do we often seek pleasure in things that don't truly satisfy?"
- Have someone read Psalm 16:11 aloud.
- "How does this verse connect true pleasure with God's presence?"

Longing for Peace:

Have someone read Genesis 2:15 aloud.

- "What does it mean that Adam was placed in the garden to work and take care of it? How does this relate to peace?"
- "What are some of the things that disrupt our peace today?"
- Have someone read Matthew 11:28-30 aloud.
- "How does Jesus offer rest and peace to those who come to Him?"

APPLICATION

Read the C.S. Lewis quote aloud:

"If I find in myself desires which nothing in this world can satisfy, the only logical explanation is that I was made for another world." - C.S. Lewis

Have someone read John 14:6 aloud.

- "How does this verse connect the concept of 'home' with the person of Jesus?"
- "Why is a relationship with Jesus the ultimate answer to our spiritual homesickness?"
- "How can we practically pursue a deeper relationship with Jesus to satisfy our longings?"

- What is one thing you've learned today that you want to apply to your life this week?"



- "How can recognizing our spiritual homesickness change the way we view our daily struggles and desires?"

PRAYER

Encourage group members to spend time in prayer, reflecting on their longings and seeking a deeper connection with Jesus.

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUR GROUP TO CONSIDER

Check out our outreach page at <https://awakeningchurch.com/outreach/> to explore ways your group can volunteer at our biweekly food pantry, support Foster the City, or join the City Team movement.
