



MESSAGE

STUDY GUIDE

GROUP MATERIAL

SONGS

Community Group Material:

Bible Reading: Romans 8:20-22; Colossians 1:15-20

Ask one person to pray at the beginning of your meeting.

Check-in

Check in with each other about how everyone is doing.

Bible Reading: Romans 8:20-22; Colossians 1:15-20

Sermon Summary:

The Cross—Bigger than You Think

How far does God's work of reconciliation reach? What is the scope and impact of the accomplishments of Christ's cross? The typical answer is that it reaches to and impacts sinful humans. It saves, regenerates, renews and reconciles us to God and to one another. And while that answer is not incorrect, it is incomplete. God's creation was affected by the fall of humanity. It groans under the weight of God's curse (Gen. 3:17-18; Rom. 8:22). It longs to be set free and liberated so it too may fully glorify God as it was created to do. Colossians 1:20 says that Christ's cross reconciled "all things!" In its context, "all things" points to all creation. Do we have a salvation story that includes the renewal of God's creation for his glory, or does it stop with humans?

Discussion:

1. How do the verses in Romans 8:20-22 line up with Ephesians 1:10?

2. Usually when we speak of reconciliation we think of reconciliation between us and God or us and others. What is significant about reconciliation in Colossians 1:20?
3. After reading and understanding Romans 8:20-22, Ephesians 1:10 and Colossians 1:15-20 in this new light, how does this influence your understanding of what Jesus did on the cross?
4. How will this “improved” understanding of the place of creation influence your worship and appreciation of the Mission of God?
5. How do you see the role or place of creation today and in the future?
6. Read 1 Peter 3:10-11 and Revelation 21:1, 5. Read these verses both in the KJV and the CSB. Compare these versions. These might seem to be contradictory. How can we hold both of these different views of what happens in the future to the earth?

End with Prayer.

- Pray for each others discipleship in 2021.
- Pray for any needs of people in your group.