

THE LONG-AWAITED SAVIOUR

SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE FOR CONNECT GROUPS

10 & 11 DEC 2022

“IN EXILE, A LONG-AWAITED RESTORATION”

JEREMIAH 33.14-22

Suggestions for Making the Most of your Group Time

1. Begin by reviewing the video of the sermon, preferably before you meet together (see <https://www.brmc.org.sg/services/sermons/>).
2. Read the Scripture passage together, before entering into discussion.
3. Spend time on both question components, namely:
 - a. Comprehension (*Who? What? When? Why? How?*);
 - b. Application / Transformation (*So what? What action should I take? Perspective should I adopt? Value should I uphold? Emotion should I embrace? Habit should I develop? Desire should I nurture? etc*)
4. Discuss as few or as many questions as best fits your group's current context and present stage in life.
5. Before ending your group session, allocate some time (15-20 min) to pray with and for one another.

Discussion Questions

1. From your review of the sermon and your reading of the Scripture passage, recap the key points of this sermon.

2. The Scripture passage speaks of God raising up a *righteous* branch from the line of David, one who will execute justice and *righteousness*, such that it will be proclaimed “The LORD is our *righteousness*”.

a) How does this promise of God find its culmination and fulfilment in Jesus Messiah? Consider both Jesus’ right genealogy, as well as the impact of his righteous life. (Hint: see not just Matthew 1.1-6, but also Romans 1.1-4, Romans 3.21-26.)

b) These promises were spoken, by the prophet Jeremiah to the people of Judah, in very dark times – in a setting of warfare, suffering, and ultimately the dislocation of Exile. Some of these promises must have sounded far-fetched and almost unbelievable. Nor did they come to pass immediately; there was a gap of several hundred of year between Jeremiah and Jesus. Yet, God did fulfill his promises, God did bring them to pass in Jesus Christ, the long-awaited Saviour. How does this reality shape the way you think, feel, or act – even in dark times?

3. The Grand Narrative of Scripture: *Creation-Fall-Redemption-New Creation*. Remember this from sermon #1? (Click [here](#) for a refresher.)

This week's sermon stated that since the Fall, we have been in Exile. Indeed, we are exiled, far-separated from our heart's true home, that is, God our loving Creator.

- a) In what ways is your heart still in exile? That is, in what ways is your heart still distant from its true home? In what ways is your heart misdirected, misprioritised, misaligned from its true and deepest longings? (Perhaps the lyrics of the song "The Yearning" may help; see below.)
- b) Will you bring these before God, asking him to change your innermost desires that you would love the things he loves? That you would delight in your Creator over all delights? Will you ask him to "place within our hearts the yearning" for him, our Emmanuel?

There is a yearning, in hearts weighed down by ancient grief, and centuries of sorrow.
There is a yearning, in hearts that in the darkness hide, and in the shades of death abide,
a yearning for tomorrow.

There is a yearning, a yearning for the promised One, the First-born of creation.
There is a yearning, for the Lord who visited His own, and by His death for sin atoned,
to bring to us salvation.

Refrain:

Emmanuel, Emmanuel, within our hearts the yearning.

Emmanuel, Emmanuel, within our hearts the yearning.

There is a yearning, that fills the hearts of those who wait, the day of His appearing.
There is a yearning, when all our sorrows are erased, and we shall see the One who placed
within our hearts the yearning.

Music by Craig Courtney, Words by Susan Bentall Boersma
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4. The sermon spoke of 'peeking ahead' at the story's end. Indeed, this is what God does through the Bible, promising that his Redemption finds its full completion in the New Creation.

This week's Scripture and sermon also reminded us that the throne remains occupied. God continues to reign. The Kingdom is present.

- In the New Testament, the phrase "kingdom of God" does not refer to a geopolitical dominion.
- Rather, the Kingdom of God is the spiritual sphere where God rules as king.
- The prayer "Your Kingdom come" cannot be separated from "Your will be done".
- God's kingly rule is present within human hearts and wills, and within human communities which worship and submit to him as Lord.
- The Kingdom is to be proclaimed, so that others may also enter into this sphere where God reigns as king.
- The kingdom is both 'now present' (Mark 1.15, Luke 17.20-21) and 'not yet' (Mark 14.25, Luke 13.28-29). In other words, Jesus Messiah has inaugurated God's kingly rule (Redemption), but this comes to full consummation only in the New Creation.

a) "There is a yearning that fills the hearts of those who wait, the day of His appearing." In what ways does God's promise of New Creation stir or move you?

b) What is one area in life in which you are waiting for renewal, knowing that you may have to wait until the very end, until God's New Creation? (e.g. the end of poverty, perfect justice, world peace, healing of a genetic disability.) Will you ask God for grace to, in the meantime, faithfully wait, watch, and work?

Prayer Items

5. Pray for one another, that we would be empowered by God to live out the specific areas of application and transformation raised during the discussion time. Pray also for any needs that were mentioned.