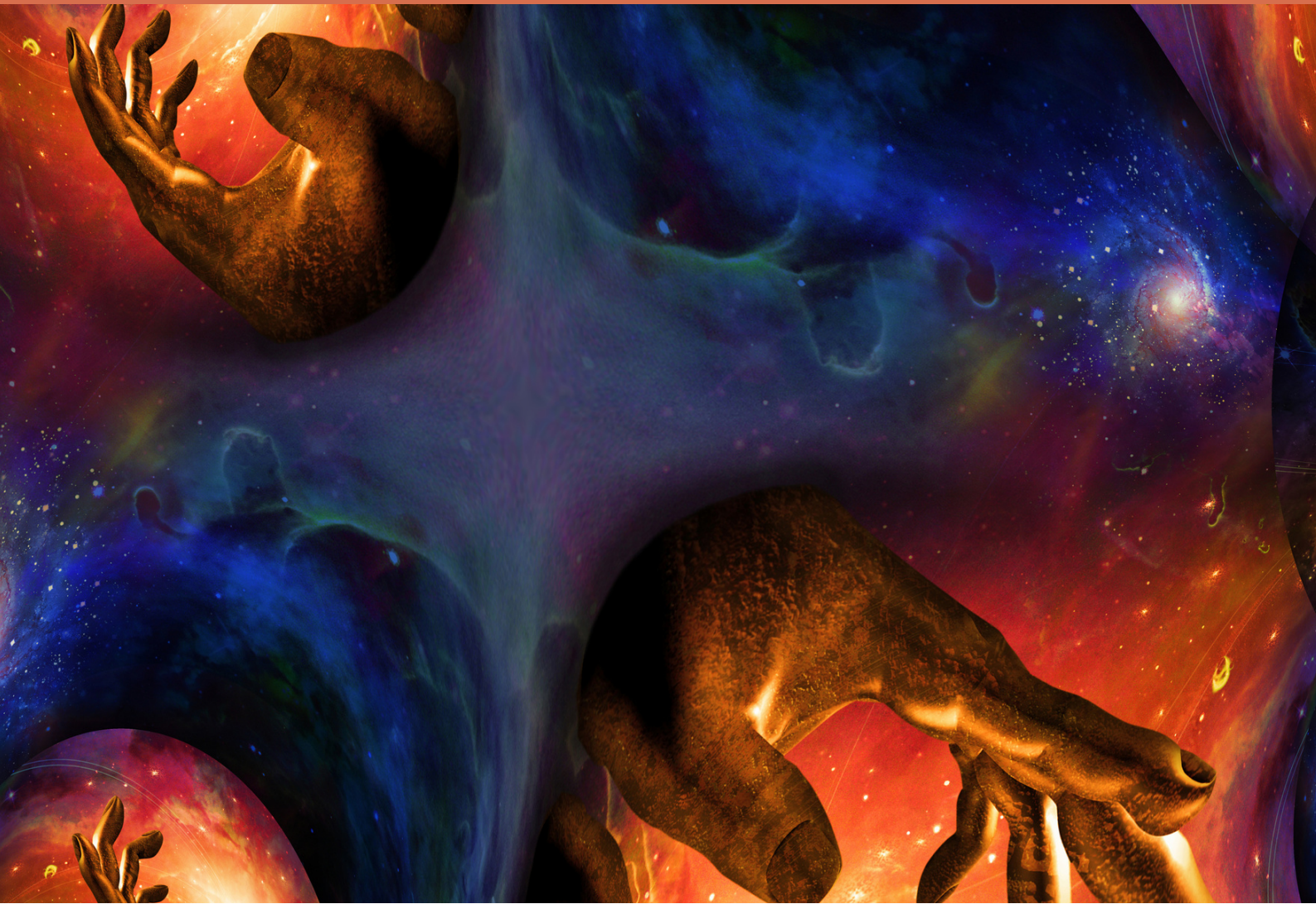

EQUIP

Your future

Small Group Session Five

Week beginning 16th October



Being Equipped

So far we have laid each of the foundations. We have been on a whistle-stop journey through a perfect creation, a fall and a curse, a curse satisfied at the cross and the gift of resurrection life. Now we come to our final session of this first part of Equip where we have been asking 'what is the gospel?' Now, the glorious future new creation comes into view.

Believing in a future new creation is hard. There is good and clear evidence that it is real. The resurrection of Jesus shows us that. Jesus rose to a new eternal life in His new creation body - as we saw in the last session. He is the first-fruits and His resurrection body shows us what our resurrection bodies will be like.

But, despite the evidence, we can not see the new creation, neither can we touch it nor experience it. In this world, we only get glimmers of the world that lies beyond. So now we need God to help us - we need Him to tell us what it will be like and then we need to have the faith to trust God. We are to be a people who live by faith and not by sight.

So, in this session, we are going to let God tell us what His new creation will be like. Firstly, we are going to look at the future new creation that our resurrection bodies will call their home. Then, secondly, we are going to stand back and review how the past few weeks should reshape our lives. Living by faith is challenging. You might like to start the session in prayer, asking God by the power of His Spirit to enable us to know the certainly of the things unseen.

If you would like a question to start you thinking, why not share what you think the new creation might be like?

He who was seated on the throne said "I am making everything new!"

Revelation 21:5

Your future

1 What the new creation will be like

So we want to ask God to show us what His new creation will be like - time for a list. Write at the top "Reality in the New Creation". Now read Revelation 21:1-5 and Revelation 22:1-5.

List the different things we learn about what the new creation will really be like?

Now go back to session one when you looked at Genesis 1 and 2. What things have been restored. What things have been developed or improved.

2 What difference does it make?

So now we need to let it sink in. One way to do that is by thinking about ways it has not yet 'sunk in'. In what ways do we think, act or live as if this day will never come?

And now have a go at the positive. If we believed in the new creation, how would it impact your priorities? How would it impact your time? How would it impact how you spend your money? How would it impact the things that worry you? ... you can add your own 'how would' questions that fit your life.

3 Concluding the last five sessions

In our launch session we started to talk about a whole life goal. That is a specific statement that summarises what you are living for. None of us want to get to the end and feel we have wasted our lives. Well, now is the time to start crafting that 'goal'. It will take more time than this session, but you can start now. In different ways, we will come back to this question five more times during Equip. So... hold on to the last five weeks. What has impacted you? What has challenged you? Now have a go at writing a 20 word summary that captures what you want to live for. Allow some time for this and then share your thoughts with one another.

Extension question: how does that statement differ from your current life pattern. These questions are challenging. Make sure you give time to pray for each other before you finish.

