



surprised by

hope

WEEK 2 - THE GRAND STORY OF REDEMPTION

OVERVIEW

To understand the great gulf which widened between God and humanity, as well as His tremendous work of self-giving love which closed it, it will help us immensely to understand the grand narrative of redemption weaving throughout all of Scripture. In this week's message we will explore the story of God bringing humanity back to himself after we willingly separated ourselves from him. Our invitation, "Come back to God!" (2 Cor. 5:20), is not a theological exercise; it is an invitation to participate in a real-life story that has changed everything. A story that can, and will, surprise us with hope if we let it.

*Since we have a great High Priest who rules over God's house,
let us go right into the presence of God with sincere hearts fully trusting him.*

Hebrews 10:21-22

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Have you ever been "surprised by hope"? Explain how.
2. In Barry's illustration, what similarities did you notice among Eden, the temple, and Jesus? What else stood out to you about the illustration?
3. In what ways has God invited humanity to "return to Eden" over time?
4. Read Deuteronomy 30:19. Why did God give a choice?
5. What would a "return to Eden" look like? (see Isaiah 2:2-4)
6. Describe how we can be royal priests today. (1 Peter 2:9) How does this compare to the role of priests in the Old Testament?
7. If Jesus died on the Cross to reunite humanity with God, why is "separation from God" still a broken place?
8. Throughout this story of redemption, what do we learn about God? (Genesis 12:2-3, Hebrews 10:19-25)

RESOURCES

gracechurch.us

The Bible Project - Royal Priests: <https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/priests-of-eden/>