

what if it's true?

REASONS TO BELIEVE

WEEK 7 - BEAUTY OVERVIEW

There is a reason we find sunsets spectacular – why a sublime melody can bring tears to our eyes. We each have a deep sensitivity to beautiful things. And yet, so much of our world is filled with ugliness – both literal and metaphorical – that we often despair of finding the beauty our hearts yearn to experience. As N.T. Wright once wrote, “We are all of us hardwired for beauty, searching for a deeper and richer meaning in a world that sometimes seems to overflow with delight but at other times feels dreadful and cold.” Where does this longing for beauty come from? According to the gospel of John, it comes from our identities as image-bearers of God, whose glory (a.k.a. beauty) shines into our world through the person of Jesus. It is Christ who not only reveals God’s glory, but who allows that same glory to shine from our own transformed lives.

“This is the very reason I came! Father, bring glory to your name.”

John 1:27-28

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Describe a time that you were moved by something beautiful.
2. What was humanity’s original job description? (see Genesis [2:15](#).)
3. What was The Tabernacle to the Israelites in Exodus?
4. Read [Exodus 25:3-7](#). Why was The Tabernacle designed to be so beautiful?
5. Barry said that we were created for paradise, but we live in the wilderness.
 - a. What does that mean to you?
 - b. Why does it matter for us today?
6. Read [John 1:14](#).
 - a. How has Jesus “made his home among us”?
 - b. What is *glory*?
7. How can we find paradise in Jesus?
8. What can Christ-followers do to help Jesus build a more beautiful world?