



BREAKING THE ICE

Share with your group your Anything's Possible note you wrote down last week. Talk about what has happened this week while praying for what you wrote on your post-it note.

Where would be your ideal place to live and why?

MAIN CONTENT

This week Pastor Kevin started a new series called, "Ache for Eden." Over the next few weeks, we will be talking about our longings to find a place, our people, our purpose and peace.

We all long for things to be as they should be. For truth, beauty and a shalom peace in all of creation. We all want to feel we have a soft place to land.

1. Where is the best place you have lived and why?

One of our first longings is place. A place where we feel known and others know us. But we go through seasons where we don't feel like we have a place. That space between what is known and unknown is called liminal space. It's a transitional space and it's in this space where we grow the most spiritually.

2. Describe a time in your life where you lived in a liminal space. Are you currently living in a liminal space?

God wants us to find peace in the place where we are. In the beginning he had a specific place that was perfect. A garden where you could find everything you needed. God created the garden of Eden for Adam and Eve. They lived in that perfect place until they used their free will to sin against God and then they were displaced.

3. Where is the most perfect place you have ever lived? What made it feel perfect?

When we move from that perfect place it can feel disorienting. We can forget that God has called us to something new, that He has us and will carry us to what He has for us.

Like Abraham and Moses in the Old Testament we can experience that liminal space of not knowing what is next but holding on to the promise that God has.

Read Deuteronomy 6:10-12

4. Where do you need to remember the promises God has for you in the liminal and transitional space in your life?

It's easy for us to get side tracked and forget what is going on in our current lives. We can get caught up in wanting the perfect house, life, friends, neighborhood and job. With the information overload we come in contact with we can get discontent quickly. Your address is not your identity. Our identity is in Jesus.

5. How does your social status and living status contribute to your identity?

It's fine to have nice things but when we put our identity in what we own, how we dress or where we live, we are putting our identity in temporary things. (Matthew 6:19) Our identity needs to be in the eternal.

Read John 14:1-5

God wants us to remain in Him. To live in and dwell in Him. When we dwell in Him and remain in Him, no matter where we live we are always with Him. Our home is not a place, it's a person and that person is Jesus.

6. How can you make Jesus your home?

There are more gardens mentioned in the Bible. The garden of Gethsemane was the garden where Jesus used His free will to obey God. The Garden Tomb is known as the garden where Jesus was laid to rest and rose from the dead (John 19). And the last garden is the Garden to Come (Revelation 21:3-4). It's where those who have chosen to follow Jesus will be completely restored.

God created a perfect garden in the beginning and there will be a perfect garden in the end. It's in the space between where we rest in His promises and remember what He has done for us. Our place and home in this world is with Him.

7. How can you focus on your eternal home with Jesus this week?

CLOSING PRAYER

God, thank you for providing the safest place for us by sending your son. Will you walk with us and remind us of what it means to have an eternal mindset and keep our focus on the peace you bring. When we start to get caught up in things of this world will you bring us back to our place and security with you. In Jesus name, Amen

ACTION STEP

- + This week when you find yourself getting unsatisfied with your place, pray and ask God to rest in Him.
- + If you are currently in a liminal space, pray and make a list of things that are true. Go over that list and pray that God will help you find your place in Him and not focus on the unknown.