

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

1. Are you a crier? How would you fare in the “Try Not to Cry” challenge?

WORLDVIEW

2. Should Christians be involved in reaching out to the disabled, deprived, and destitute in society if the aim is only to meet their physical needs?

INTO THE BIBLE

3. Use the following passages to trace and develop the “creation motif” present throughout our text this week. How do they speak to the universal need for “re-creation”?

Genesis 1:31—And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

Genesis 3:17–19—And to Adam he said, “Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, ‘You shall not eat of it,’ cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”

Isaiah 35:1–10—The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus; it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who have an anxious heart, “Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you.” Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy. For waters break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; in the haunt of jackals, where they lie down, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. And a highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Way of Holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it. It shall belong to those who walk on the way; even if they are fools, they shall not go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Romans 8:18–25—For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

DIGGING DEEPER

4. Can you think of another time where Jesus deliberately delayed his arrival or went the long way around before a divine appointment? What do you appreciate about Jesus' intentionality in this regard?

Does Jesus always come, at the right time, and in the way we expect?

5. What spiritual applications can we make to our own life after considering the example of the passionate friends of the deaf man?
6. This passage, along with the passage describing the deliverance of the demon possessed man in chapter 5, confronts us with the zeal and fervour of what may have been the first Gentile missionaries in history. How do we come to this conclusion? What motivated and drove their passion?
7. What do you sigh about? Have you noticed any connection between your sighing and your "looking up to heaven"?
8. In this week in which we specially remember the eternal work of Jesus Christ our Saviour, what causes you to be "astonished beyond measure" by him?

As you do your regular grocery shopping, please remember to add something to your trolley to donate to the Food for the Family ministry. Regularly used items include: rice (1kg or 2kg); juice; washing powder (auto or hand wash); cooking oil (750ml or 2-litre); peanut butter; syrup; jam; tea; coffee; sandwich spread; pilchards; tuna; cake flour; baked beans; butter beans; mixed vegetables; tomato and onion mix; other canned foods; Cremora or long-life milk; pasta; noodles; condiments (tomato sauce, mustard), etc.; sugar (1kg or 2.5kg); mielie meal; bath soap; deodorant (roll-on); toothpaste. Speak to Patson Ngidi for more information.