



WEEKLY STUDY

Week One

Pastor Jacob introduced a new series to start the new year. In this series, we'll see that the God who made all new things in creation (Genesis) is making all things new again (Revelation). If you are studying with your Providence Small Group, you can share from daily readings as well as the additional questions at the bottom of this guide. If you would like to get connected to a Providence Small Group visit prov.church/signup and click on Small Groups.

Find a time each day to read the passage of scripture. Follow the daily prayer prompt and then pray this prayer together:

O God we are constantly aware of our need for restoration. We fall down and fail to reflect your image that was created in us. Restore us God and make us new. Amen.

DAILY STUDY

MONDAY: GENESIS 1.1-3

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. ² Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

³ And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light.

- Here is the story of God making new things where once there were no things. To consider that God created everything from nothing...that his only material to work with was his Word, his breath, and waters of chaos...is beyond our comprehension. Have you ever witnessed God make something out of nothing, or make a way where there was no way?
- *In prayer, thank God for creating life in you where once there was no life.*

TUESDAY: 2 CORINTHIANS 5.17-19

¹⁶...if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! ¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: ¹⁹ that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them.

- The timing of God’s re-creating work is something to behold. For many of us this winter looks particularly like “the old is gone”. We wait for “the new is here”. In the same way the natural world around us must stay connected to its sources of life during the winter, our new life depends on our connection to God through Christ.
- *Pray that the ministry of reconciliation would be lived out through your life.*

WEDNESDAY: ISAIAH 43.18-19

“Forget the former things;

do not dwell on the past.

¹⁹ *See, I am doing a new thing!*

Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?

I am making a way in the wilderness

and streams in the wasteland.

- True freedom requires that we let go of the past, but not necessarily the lessons of the past. Letting go may involve forgiving yourself or someone else. Letting go may mean that we put something away that has been keeping a past hurt present. When the past no longer has all of our attention, we can see the new thing God is doing. We can see the path ahead and let God guide us through the wilderness.
- *Pray that you would perceive the new thing springing up in the world around you.*

THURSDAY: EZEKIEL 11.18-19

I will give them an undivided heart and put a new spirit in them; I will remove from them their heart of stone and give them a heart of flesh. ²⁰ *Then they will follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws. They will be my people, and I will be their God.*

- God speaks through Ezekiel and says that He will make His people new. Where they had developed a divided heart--a heart of stone, God would give them a new spirit and a heart that can be transformed. There is a restatement of covenant here. “They will be my people, and I will be their God.” Are there some areas in our life where you feel you may developed a hard heart?
- *Pray for God to renew your spirit today, and to break open your heart that you might live for Him.*

FRIDAY: LAMENTATIONS 3.22-24

*Because of the LORD’s great love we are not consumed,
for his compassions never fail.*

²³ *They are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.*

²⁴ *I say to myself, “The LORD is my portion;
therefore I will wait for him.”*

- In the midst of some of the most difficult writing in all of the Bible, we receive these words of hope. Every morning we have evidence that God is still at work. God is still extended grace and mercy to us even though we have not always been faithful. How does this promise impact your outlook today?
- *Pray that you would see God's new mercy every morning, and throughout the day. Pray for patience to wait on God to make you new.*

SATURDAY: REVELATION 21.1-3

Then I saw "a new heaven and a new earth," for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. ²I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. ³And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God.

- The vision given to John is one that may surprise many of us. Many of us have often thought that God's fix for creation was to escape to a new creation in heaven. But here we have the image of that reality coming down. A new city, a new heaven, a new earth. How do you picture this scene?
- *Pray for glimpses of God's Kingdom coming to earth even now. Pay attention to the ways the coming "new creation" impacts the way you live today.*

- See reverse for Small Group Discussion -

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

- Pastor Jacob stated that if God can create something out of nothing, then he can create something new out of you. Are you able to believe that 100% of the time? If not, what makes it difficult? As you look at your life (your patterns, habits and tendencies) what are you hopeful that God would make new?
- The timeless Christmas hymn, Joy to the World was originally written, not about Christmas, but about the return of Christ. How often do you think about Jesus returning to us? What about this hymn gives you hope and joy when considering his return?

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive its king;
let ev'ry heart prepare him room,
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.