

Sermon Series: God's Story, Your Story

Week 5 – Restoration

Speaker: Danny de Armas

Passage: Romans 8:19-23, Revelation 21:1-5, 1 Corinthians 15:58

Groups Guide: 10/12/2025

Leader's Corner: Sermon Series Overview

Have you ever asked yourself:

- *Where did I come from?*
- *What is my purpose?*
- *How do I discover my God-given identity?*
- *Why is there suffering in the world?*
- *Where will I spend eternity—and what will that be like?*

In this study, we'll journey through God's story (Creation, the Fall, Redemption, and Restoration) uncovering how His truth speaks into life's biggest questions. These aren't just questions for believers; they're questions your friends, coworkers, and neighbors are asking every day. Let's lean in together as a church family to engage our culture with the hope of the gospel and gain a fresh perspective on God's plan and our part in it.

Main Idea: "Reality of new heaven and new earth here - your kingdom come, your will be done; God's kingdom is now; how can I bring abundant life into the world today?"

BELONG:

Leader's Guide: Choose one or all icebreaker questions to start your group. Question 1 and 2 work well for larger groups or groups with new members, it's lighthearted and easy to answer. Question 3 is best for smaller, more familiar groups who are ready for deeper discussion.

- 1. What's one thing you hope is in Heaven that would surprise people?**
- 2. If Heaven had food (no calories, no limits!), what's the first meal you'd go for?**
- 3. What's one question about Heaven you've always wondered about?**

Leader's Note: This question invites curiosity and deeper reflection. Remind your group that it's okay to wonder, and that there may not be definite answers to all questions about Heaven. Encourage the group to listen and respect different perspectives while keeping the discussion open. Here are some example answers to help spark conversation:

- *Will we recognize people we've never met but have heard about?*
- *Will we still have personalities and interests like we do now?*
- *Will we understand why certain things happened in life?*
- *Will there be deep conversations with God that we can actually comprehend?*

BELIEVE:

Leader's Note: For better preparation during your group discussion, please take time to read the entire chapter of Romans 8.

Read Romans 8:19-23

- 1.) How does the idea that we must rely on secret knowledge or our own abilities for salvation DIFFER from the biblical promise of restoration through Christ?**

Leader's Note: Gnosticism is the belief that people have a divine capacity within themselves and that salvation comes through special or hidden knowledge, often teaching that the Kingdom of God is

already present on earth. The Bible contrasts this, showing that salvation is not something we achieve through secret knowledge or our own abilities, but is a gift from God through faith in Jesus Christ. It comes by God's grace, not by our own understanding or effort. This applies to both our personal redemption and to the hope of future restoration described in Romans 8:19-23.

2.) How does Paul's emphasis on hope and redemption in Romans 8:19-23 show that God's restoration is a gift to be received, not a secret to be discovered?

Leader's Note: Refer to the leader's note above. The truth that God's restoration is a gift, not something we earn or discover on our own.

3.) Why do you think Paul describes all of creation as 'groaning' and waiting for redemption, and what does that teach us about the nature of God's restoration?

BECOME:

Read Revelation 21:1-5, 1 Corinthians 15:58

1.) How does knowing that we, along with all creation, are awaiting God's restoration impact the way we live in the present?

2.) What difference does the hope of final restoration make in how you treat others, care for creation, and pursue spiritual growth now?

Leader's Note: Encourage your group to connect the hope of God's final restoration to tangible actions in their own lives. Guide them to reflect on practical ways, such as:

- **Caring for others:** volunteering at a local ministry, checking on their neighbors, mentoring a younger believer)
- **Stewarding Creation:** supporting sustainable practices, helping maintain community green spaces, etc.)
- **Growing spiritually:** Regular Prayer, bible study, serving at church)

3.) In what ways does this vision encourage you to live faithfully today, knowing God will ultimately redeem all things?

Challenge:

*We are disciples of Jesus becoming **EMPOWERING LEADERS**. This means we equip others to become and do what they could never do on their own.*

This week, choose one tangible way to live out the hope of God's restoration. It could be caring for someone in need, stewarding creation in your community, or taking a step to grow spiritually.

As you do this, reflect on how God's gift of redemption and the promise of a new heaven and new earth shape your thoughts, words, and actions. Who in your life is far from God that you're intentionally building a friendship with?

DIVE DEEPER:

This section is designed for leaders or anyone eager to go deeper beyond the small group conversation. Explore the resources below to keep growing!

Bible Project:

- Romans 5-16 - <https://bibleproject.com/videos/romans-5-16/>
- New Heaven & New Earth - <https://bibleproject.com/articles/new-heaven-new-earth/>
- Revelation 12-22 - <https://bibleproject.com/videos/revelation-12-22/>

- Revelations Guide - <https://bibleproject.com/guides/book-of-revelation/>

Breakpoint Colson Center

- <https://breakpoint.org/breakpoint-podcasts/>

Additional Resources

- All things New - John Eldridge
- Surprised by Hope - NT Wright