

ORIGINAL CREATION

DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

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CHURCH



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ORIGINAL CREATION

Friends,

We have been slowly working through Revelation together these past months. I hope it has been as challenging for you as it has been for me. We've had so many opportunities to ask ourselves questions like:

Who or what has my allegiance besides Jesus?

Where is my hope pointed?

Who am I worshiping with my time, talents, and treasures? Is it Jesus?

As we head towards the end of Revelation, we will visit the New Creation. I don't want any spoilers, so I won't describe it here, but you will not be disappointed!

In this set of devotions, we are going to look at Original Creation. We will visit Genesis, Job, the Psalms, and two other wisdom books as we see the glory of the original creation and God's desires for it.

I love the predictable rhythm we've established with these daily devotions, and I hope they help us all align our lives towards Jesus in the daily routines of reading His word.

Love you all,

Keith

Keith

Pastor/elder



WEEK 1

SUNDAY (4/4/21) SERMON NOTES

**CHRIST IS RISEN!
HE IS RISEN, INDEED!**

MONDAY (4/5/21)

As usual, we are going to start off the week looking at what the **Bible Project** have put together for us regarding the beginning of Genesis.


Take a minute to watch:

 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=afVN-7vY0KA>



② From this video, what stands out to you as interesting?

② Anything confusing?

 Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to give you fresh eyes for these chapters than can seem so familiar.

TUESDAY (4/6/21)

Read Genesis 1:1-5

All throughout this chapter, we are going to answer the question: “What is God dividing and why?” So here goes!

② What is God dividing in these verses?

② Why is He dividing them? What purpose does the dividing serve?


② What is visible on this first morning? What do you picture as you read?

WEDNESDAY (4/7/21)

 Read Genesis 1:6-8

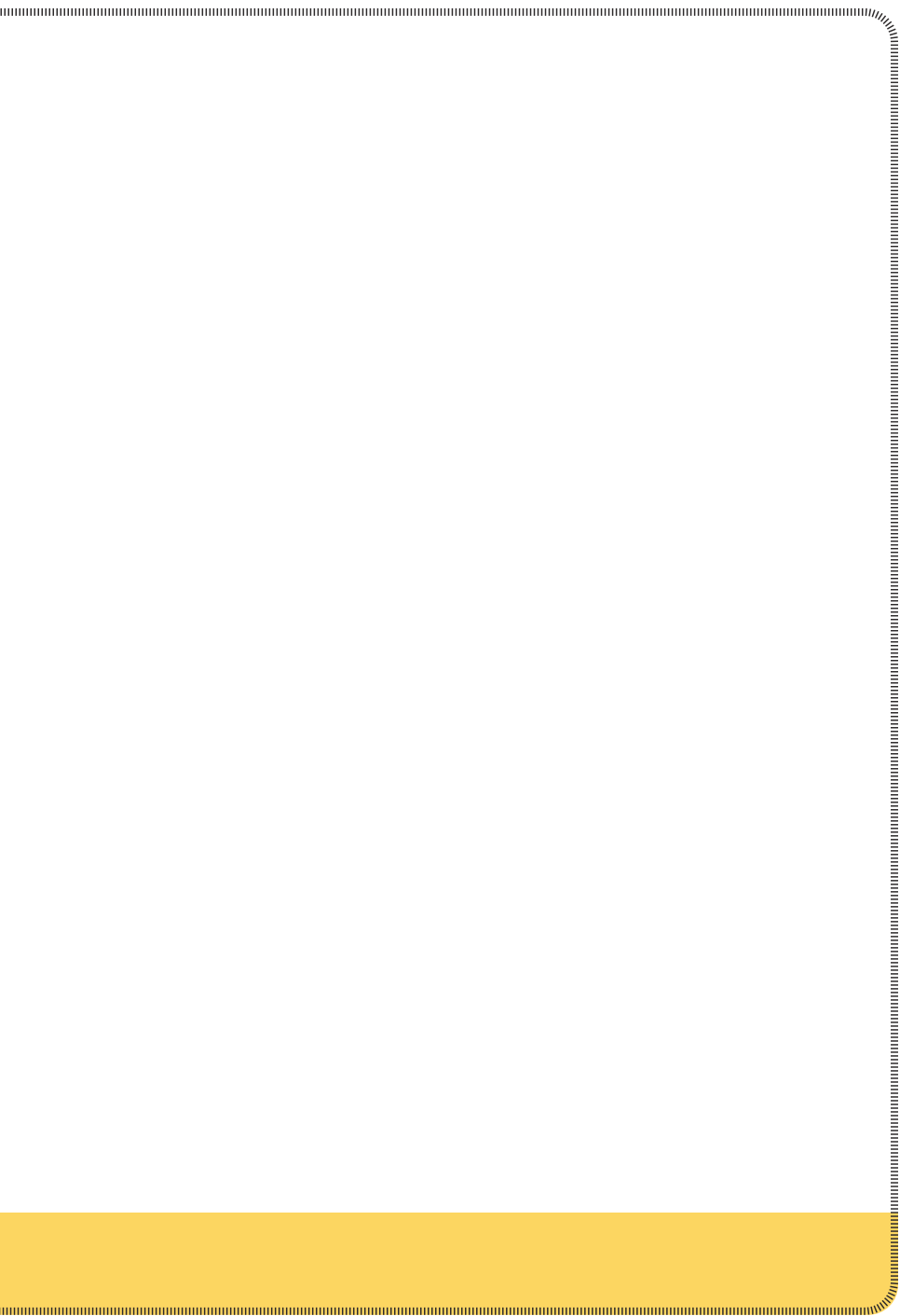
② What is God dividing in these verses?

② Why is He dividing them? What purpose does the dividing serve?

 In the space provided on pages 8 and 9, draw what you've seen these first two days in our creation story. We will be adding to our drawing throughout the rest of the week.



CREATION STORY



THURSDAY (4/8/21)

 **Read Genesis 1:9-13**

② What is God dividing in these verses?

② Why is He dividing them? What purpose does the dividing serve?

② Why do you think God sees this part of creation as good?

 Add to your previous drawing what is happening today.

FRIDAY (4/9/21)

 Read Genesis 1:14-19

② What is God dividing in these verses?

② Why is He dividing them? What purpose does the dividing serve?

② The detail described increases each day. What do you think it says about God that He, in detail, can call stars into being?

 Again, add to your drawing what is happening.



SATURDAY (4/10/21)

 Read Genesis 1:20-23

② What is God dividing in these verses?

② Why is He dividing them? What purpose does the dividing serve?

② What does it mean “according to their kinds”? What is the significance of this?

② Are you noticing anything else from these days about who God is through what He does in creation?

 Again, do some drawing!

SUNDAY (4/11/21)

Let's observe the rhythm of some silence and reflection on these Sabbaths. Spend some time quietly thanking the Lord for who He has shown Himself to be in your life.

I noticed in the reading of Genesis 1 and 2 that immediately following the creation of the man and the woman, God invites them to rest with Him on the seventh day. Let's rest with Him this morning.




WEEK 2

SUNDAY (4/11/21) - SERMON NOTES

② Again, if you think about what you know in the Bible, what does it mean to be a male image bearer? How does being male uniquely reflect God's image?

② How can the culture and church stereotypes related to maleness and femaleness be hurtful?

② Look at how God provides food for all His creatures in vs. 28-30. What do you notice?

 Do some drawing! Finish your rendition of creation.

TUESDAY (4/13/21)

 Read Genesis 2

② From this retelling of the creation account, what do you see that is interesting to you?


② Confusing to you?


② What does it tell you about who God is?





THURSDAY (4/15/21)

 Read Genesis 2:8-17

 As details get added to the creation story, continue to add to your drawing the layers of beauty and design.

 How does God demonstrate care for this man that He had created?

 The phrase “all kinds of trees” keeps popping out to me - so much variety in creation! Some trees were just for visual pleasure. What does this say to you about who God is?

 God gives Adam purpose and work to do. How is this true in your own life?

...Continued on the next page




② As you read it, are the commands in verses 16-17 framed positively or negativity? Is the emphasis on what to do or what not to do? How does that matter?

② In your own life, what are some “yes’s” you sensed from God?

FRIDAY (4/16/21)

 Read Genesis 2:18-20

② Again, how does God provide for the man, Adam?

 I love how Adam mirrors God's character of creativity. He names all the animals. Can you imagine naming every living creature?

② Would doing this be a fun day for you, or incredibly stressful?

② Why do you think it wasn't good for the man to be alone?

② What do you think God was looking for in a "suitable" helper? It seems hard to tell if Adam knows at this point that a search is on.



SATURDAY (4/17/21)

Read Genesis 2:20-25

I've read that the word translated here as "rib" is elsewhere translated as "side." I know it's not a huge difference, but to me the idea of "his side" draws my mind to thinking of us, as men and women, walking side by side, helpers to each other.

- ② How do you feel after reading this story?

- ② How has understanding this story been helpful to you? Has it been harmful in any way?

- ② How does Adam seem to feel about this creation called woman?

- ② Verse 24 says, "for this reason" the two become one flesh. What is this reason? Why does this make sense that the man and the woman become one flesh?

- ② Of all the emotions that scripture could highlight, why do you think the writer of Genesis is so specific that they felt no shame?

SUNDAY (4/18/21)

This morning, as we sit with the Father, we are going to spend some time thinking about the word “shame.”

② In your own life, have there been ways that you have felt shamed by the people in your life?

🙏 If you are able to, talk to the Father about the ways that you have felt this shame. Ask Him to speak into that and help you release it to Him. He does not bring shame with Him. He loves you, He sees all of you, and always remains facing us and tenderly calling to us.



WEEK 3

SUNDAY (4/18/21) - SERMON NOTES

MONDAY (4/19/21)

 **Read Genesis 3**

② What stands out to you as interesting?

② What is confusing?

② What do you learn about God and how He relates to us from this chapter?

② What do you learn about man/womankind (ourselves) from this chapter?



TUESDAY (4/20/21)

 **Read Genesis 3:1-5**

② How does the serpent sow seeds of doubt related to God's character with the woman (and the man who was with her)?

It seems especially cunning and cruel, to me, when the serpent in verses 4-5 seems to say subtly, "God doesn't want you to be like Him, He's keeping you separate from Him, you aren't good enough to be like Him."

② How have you felt "less than" in your own life? How does Satan use this tactic with you?

② Why do you think the man is so quiet? How do you think that this impacts the woman next to him?

WEDNESDAY (4/21/21)

 Read Genesis 3:6-7

② What motivates the woman to eat? What is motivating this first sin?

② What are the immediate consequences?

② How is shame introduced immediately into their relationship, where we saw earlier there was no shame?

② Are there areas in our life, past sin, present sin, or character issues that cause you to want to hide from God?

① Spend some time talking to God about this. Is there a trusted friend you could bring this to as well?



THURSDAY (4/22/21)

Read Genesis 3:8-10

These are some of the saddest verses in the Bible for me.

② God comes to walk with His friends, His creation. He gently calls them to move towards Him when He says, “where are you?”

② What do you think Adam is afraid of in this encounter with his creator?

🔍 In your life, what would you fear having exposed?

② How do you hide from others or from God?

② If God asked you today, “where are you” do you perceive that you are moving towards Him or away from Him?

② What would be a relief for Him to see and know about you?

FRIDAY (4/23/21)

 **Read Genesis 3:11-13**

② How do the man and the woman respond when confronted with their sin?

② Who knows you well enough to see the sin in your life? Have you given them permission to confront you?

② When you are confronted by a friend about some sin in your own life, how do you generally respond?



SUNDAY (4/25/21)

As is our rhythm, spend some time with the Father. Bring to him the things that you can tend to doubt. Turn towards Him with your questions, doubts and fears.



WEEK 4

SUNDAY (4/25/21) - SERMON NOTES

MONDAY (4/26/21)

Read Genesis 3:16

- ② Eve's curse is very relational in nature. How do you see this worked out today? In your own sphere?

- ② I had it explained to me once that the word translated *desire* here is the same word used later in Genesis when god is telling Cain to resist the desire to kill his brother, Abel. There it says, "sin is crouching at your door and it desires to control you."

- ② Do you see a desire for control in yourself?

- ② God creates them "side-by-side," using a piece of the man's side to create the woman, and now it has become a competition. I grieve this in so many ways. How do you see this competition in play in our world today?

- ② Are there examples in your life of a godly "side-by-side" relationship and serving?

TUESDAY (4/27/21)

Read Genesis 3:17-20

I find it curious that the woman readily admits, “the serpent deceived me,” but Adam doesn’t even speak about the serpent. He blames the woman.

- ② How could the man have loved the woman better during the time of tempting? What choices do you see that he had?

- ② Why do you think God says “because you listened to your wife?” Why was this a bad thing that he did?

- ② Adam is primarily cursed in his work, the tasks around him that he had been given by God. How do you see this worked out either in your own life, or those around you?

- ② What implications do you see for the relationship between Adam and Eve going forward with all that’s happened?

WEDNESDAY (4/28/21)

 Read Genesis 3:21-24

② The first animals are killed on earth to make garments for Adam and Eve. Why is this significant as you think about the rest of the Bible?

② How does this simple act demonstrate God's incredible care for this couple?

② I sometimes forget that Eden was a garden amidst the rest of creation. So the couple gets banished from the beautiful garden that was their home. How is God loving them in this decision?



THURSDAY (4/29/21)

 **Read Genesis 1-3**

② After the slow crawl through these chapters the past couple weeks, what pops out to you in today's quick reading?

② Adam and Eve made a choice to take their lives into their own hands. Disbelieving that God had the best and wisest path for them, they took their own road. Where do you see, in your own life, you going your own way instead of God's way?

 Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to reveal this to you.

FRIDAY (4/30/21)

 Read Genesis 44-46:7

Watch the following video from our friends at the **Bible Project**.

 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TJLan-pJzfQ>



② Has there been a time when you chose to eat from the life of Jesus and proclaim Him to be your Lord?

If this is something that you are confused about or have questions, please reach out to a “leader around this place”: Keith, Andrew, Benji, Cathy Shreve, or Susan. They would love to talk to you.

SATURDAY (5/1/21)

We began some reflection the other day about ways that we decide we are better determiners of our own path than God is.

📖 Read the following: Proverbs 14:1, Proverbs 16:25, & Proverbs 21:2

② As you look back over your life, have there been forks in the road where you chose your own path? Times when you were your own leader?

② How did that work out for you?

② How can you begin today to commit to following God's ways for you? What does this look like in your real life?

SUNDAY (5/2/21)

☁ Spend some time this morning praising the Father for the creation that you can see outside of your window. He has been gracious to us for sure!



WEEK 5

SUNDAY (5/2/21) - SERMON NOTES

MONDAY (5/3/21)


We are going to spend the next couple weeks looking at some of the passages in the Bible that talk about the *original* creation. As we are digging into New Creation on Sundays in Revelation, we are going to spend the devotional time investigating more about the creation that we see outside around us!

Read Psalm 19

- ② If we could hear the speech of the heavens, what do you think they are saying?

- ② In creation, what moves you the most to prayer and worship of the creator?

- ② How do verses 7- 14 relate to the first 6 verses?

 Spend a few minutes praying these words about yourself from Psalm 19:

^{12b} *Forgive my hidden faults.*

^{13a} *Keep your servant also from willful sins; may they not rule over me.*

¹⁴ *May these words of my mouth and this meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer.*

TUESDAY (5/4/21)

 **Read Psalm 104**

② Of all the marvelous works listed here, which impact your daily life?

② What is the most amazing to you as you read?

② What do you learn about God from these verses?

WEDNESDAY (5/5/21)

 Read Psalm 8

② Why do you think God is mindful of mankind?

② How do you think it works that the praise of children creates a stronghold against the enemy?

Close your eyes and listen to this song.

 Psalm 8

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3KESHlBh8a8>



THURSDAY (5/6/21)

 Read Psalm 29


② What do we learn about God from these verses?


② What is our responsibility as described here?

👁️ How have you seen the Lord bless you with strength and peace?

FRIDAY (5/7/21)

 Read Psalm 65

 How have you seen the Lord fill you with good things?

 Read this Psalm aloud, slowly and ponderously. What pops out to you that you can praise God for?




SATURDAY (5/8/21)

Read Psalm 139

② How does God's intimate knowledge of all your thoughts, your deeds, your comings and goings, make you feel?

② Are there parts of your physical body that you wonder why God knit them together the way that He did? Can you talk to Him about that?

 Pray through these words from Psalm 139:

*²³ Search me, God, and know my heart;
test me and know my anxious thoughts.*

*²⁴ See if there is any offensive way in me,
and lead me in the way everlasting.*

SUNDAY (5/9/21)

 Spend some time just sitting with the Father this morning.

Listen to this hymn and be peaceful before the Lord.

Search Me, O God

 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QNqCvx_T46c



WEEK 6

SUNDAY (5/9/21) - SERMON NOTES

MONDAY (5/10/21)

Last week, we looked through the Psalms, the largest collection of poetry in the Bible. This week and next week we are going to look at some portions of the wisdom books in the Bible: Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Job.

For an overview of these books, we turn again to our friends at the **Bible Project**:

 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t1wP_SdvboE



TUESDAY (5/11/21)

Read Proverbs 8

We are hearing from the wise, young, teacher as we read these next couple days!

- ② Who is the “me” in verse 22?

- ② Describe God’s work in creation from these verses (mainly 22-31):

- ② Why does it matter that wisdom was around before any of the creation? What’s the writer’s point?

- ② Of all the visuals listed as a part of creation, which stands out to you today?

WEDNESDAY (5/12/21)

📖 **Read Proverbs 30** (*focusing especially on verses 24-31*)

② I love verses 7-8, his utterly honest appraisal of himself and what he sees as necessary to live wisely. If you could ask two things of the Lord, what would you ask?

② In verses 24-31, what's the most interesting creature to you, and what do you learn from them? (*Don't be ashamed to have to look them up, I had to look up several of the words!*)



THURSDAY (5/13/21)

As we continue reading through wisdom literature, remember from Proverbs that wisdom was around before all of creation. And we can glean from wisdom's insights as we seek to live life well and for the Father's glory.

Read Ecclesiastes 1

According to the Bible Project video, we are now reading from the “middle aged critic” portion of the wisdom literature.

- ② What does the author observe about life according to this chapter?

- ② How is creation portrayed in this chapter? Does anything pop out to you?

- ② Can you think of something new “under the sun”?

- ② What is comforting about there being nothing new under the sun?

FRIDAY (5/14/21)

Read Ecclesiastes 9

More lessons from “under the sun.”

② After reading this chapter, what are the sobering or discouraging parts?

🔍 What are the observations that are encouraging or bring life?

② What's your *take home* from this chapter?



SATURDAY (5/15/21)

Read Ecclesiastes 12


② The opening verses remind me of our time in Revelation. Days of trouble are surely coming.

② What do we learn about God from this chapter?

② How about us? What do we learn about people?

② How is the Teacher calling us to respond?

SUNDAY (5/16/21)

 *Ahhhh, Sunday!* Spend some time this morning just enjoying the Father's presence. Sit quietly with Him, thank Him for who he is, thank Him for His endless love for you and His delight in you.



WEEK 7

SUNDAY (5/16/21) - SERMON NOTES

MONDAY (5/17/21)

We are continuing in the wisdom books with the book of Job.

We are going to start in a predictable way with the **Bible Project** video which gives us a short review of Proverbs & Ecclesiastes and a good overview of Job.

 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GswSg2ohqmA>



② What popped out to you from the video? Questions? Observations?

TUESDAY (5/18/21)

Read Job 38

From the video we learned about Job's incredible losses, his pain and confusion, and the poor counsel from his friends. He demands an audience with God and he gets one. But God has a surprising answer.

② Why do you think God answers Job in this fashion?

② What, in this chapter, expands your view of who God is?

② What is your favorite visual from this chapter?

WEDNESDAY (5/19/21)

 Read Job 39

God continues on with His questions for Job to consider.

② If you are Job, how are you feeling?

② What in this chapter expands your view of who God is?

② What is your favorite visual from this chapter?



THURSDAY (5/20/21)

Read Job 40

God accuses Job of discrediting Him in order to justify himself.

② As you look at the world around us, where are you most frustrated with the lack of justice?

② Where are you most longing to see justice around you?

② I often think of Job's reply here in the beginning of this chapter as "*you are God and I am not.*" In what ways do you appreciate His ways being higher than your ways?

FRIDAY (5/21/21)

Read Job 41

The Leviathan. Interesting for sure: Leviathan is the traditional name for a menacing, armored, and destructive creature. It is referenced in several books of the Bible, including Psalms, Job, Isaiah, and Amos.

② What is the “take home” from this chapter?

Q As you think about all of God’s questions in the past several days of reading, I have to ask again: why do you think God questions Job in this fashion?

② How has your view of God been expanded?

② Have you had any other thoughts about who God is?



SATURDAY (5/22/21)

Read Job 42

② God finishes his questions and Job replies. What do you think is going through Job's mind as he sums things up?

② How does God demonstrate His respect for Job?

In this narrative, Job never learns about God's conversation with Satan that resulted in the crushing losses Job experienced. Often, we also do not know what's happening behind the scenes of our lives.

② How does creation itself offer us solace and explanation about who God is in the midst of messy lives?

SUNDAY (5/23/21)


Spend some time listening to the song **Where Were You**

 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DLf_Nlukra0



The lyrics here reminded me of where we've been this past two weeks.

Perhaps you are left with questions, sadness, or confusion about how life operates?

 Reflect this morning on God's great strength and power. Reflect on His ways and His wisdom. Realign yourself to Him.

WEEK 8

SUNDAY (5/23/21) - SERMON NOTES

MONDAY (5/24/21)

 **Read Colossians 1:15-20**

We've just finished reading weeks of creation accounts and visuals.

- ① What do we learn from these verses?

- ② What does this passage tell us about Jesus' work in the ages past?

- ③ What about His present work? What's He doing right now?

- ④ How about His future work?

- ⑤ How does this expand your picture of who Jesus is? Consider all of it. Creation. The Fall. The Death and Resurrection. The End (as we've read in Revelation). All to reconcile everything to God.



TUESDAY (5/25/21)

 **Read John 1:1-14**

We learned in proverbs that Wisdom was there before the created earth and heavens. The same is true of the Word.

- ② Who is the Word that created everything?

- ② What does He bring to us when He comes to live with us?

- ② Why does it say that we are His own? How are we His?

- ② What determines if someone is a child of God?

- ② What is the difference between God's own/God's creation and being a son or daughter of God?

WEDNESDAY (5/26/21)

 **Read Acts 17:16-34**

Paul, while walking through the city of Athens sees that they worship all kinds of idols, and just to cover their bases, they are also worshipping an “unknown god.” He seizes the opportunity to explain to them the One True God, maker of heaven and earth.

- ② Why, according to Paul, does He mark out our times and days?

- ② How close does God feel right now?

- ② How do you see Him living in you, moving in you, and giving you your being? In what practical ways is this true today?

- ② All throughout Revelation we heard the call to align ourselves in allegiance to Christ and His Kingdom. Where do you see your life more aligned to Jesus’ ways than in the Fall when we began Revelation?



THURSDAY (5/27/21)

Read 1 Corinthians 15:35-58

We just had to end with this passage which reminds me of Revelation and all that is to come in eternity.

② What is true of us (those of us who are sons and daughters of God) according to this passage?


② What makes you the most excited after reading this passage?

② Why is verse 58 true?

FRIDAY (5/28/21)

 **Read Genesis 1-3**

② After all the reading these past weeks, what stands out to you from these chapters?


 Spend some time pondering a world without sin and shame and talk to the Father about whatever comes to mind.



SATURDAY (5/29/21)

Read Revelation 21-22

Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city. (Rev. 22:14)

 Have your robes been washed?

The Spirit and the bride say, “Come!”

If there is any doubt in your mind that your robes have been washed and you will enter the Holy City to worship Christ there, please reach out to one of the leaders around this place. They want to share with you.

SUNDAY (5/30/21)

Listen to this song and relax back in the arms of the Father who loves you and pursues you.

Revelation Song

 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8-Gxjtd6Wp4>





Know. Be. Do... *Together*

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