

Meditating on the new creation—getting started

The idea of “meditating” on something, let alone the new creation, may be a new idea to us. But meditating on the Bible, as we thought about during our virtual weekend away, is just thinking about the Bible, with all the parts of our minds, so God’s word changes us as the Bible writers intended.

Some of us may want to think more about the new creation, but aren’t sure where to begin. We’ve put these notes together for you to use as a way of starting to think about the new creation for yourself.

These notes contain:

- **Bible passage:** a Bible passage about the new creation
- **Thinking about the new creation and prayer**
We suggest you spend 15 minutes working through this section, which contains:
 - i) Question(s) based on the Bible passage to help you think about a particular aspect of the new creation
 - ii) **Think:** something to think about or consider related to the passage, to push your thinking further. There is usually one main activity, with several smaller questions to help get our brains thinking.
Note: don’t treat each individual question in this section in the same way as the questions about the Bible passage in the previous section. These questions are there to stimulate us to think or imagine in ways we aren’t used to doing. You won’t need to spend lots of time answering each individual question.
 - iii) **Pray:** a suggestion for how you could pray in response to what you’ve thought about and seen in God’s word
- **Today:** something you could think about during the day related to the passage

You could also:

- **Song:** listen to the song we suggest, to keep thinking about the new creation
- **Thinking further if you want:** use these optional ideas to help you keep thinking about the new creation during the day.

The things we encourage you to think about (in **thinking about the new creation and prayer** and **thinking further if you want**) may be new to us, as we often don’t think about the new creation. We aren’t used to using our minds and imaginations, so what we suggest you think about may feel hard or silly to start with. But it is worth persevering—we hope this will help us to set our minds on the new creation.

As we think about the new creation, sometimes we will encourage you to imagine what it will be like. This is to help us want to be in the new creation. At times we may not be accurate in what we think of. Don’t worry! It’s better to begin imagining what the new creation will be like, and then allow the Bible to correct our understanding, instead of not thinking about the new creation at all.

Some days develop on or refer back to previous days, so work through them in order, even if you miss a day or two. Don’t feel bad if you don’t do one each day, work through them at a pace that suits you.

We have prepared two weeks of meditations. Some of us may not want to do two weeks. Why not try them out for a week, and discuss with someone in your RML group how you get on. The second week builds on week one, and each day may take slightly longer. We will look at some similar ideas, but push our thinking further, or consider new angles.

Meditating on the new creation—day 1

Bible passage: Revelation 21:1–5

^{22:1} Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ² And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. ⁴ He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.”

⁵ And he who was seated on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.”

Thinking about the new creation and prayer (15 mins)

Revelation 21 tells us that in the new creation, there will be no more tears, death, mourning, crying or pain. God will remove all these things forever. The implications of this are huge!

- What do you find most exciting about this picture of the new creation?
- Think: Write a list of 20 examples of tears, death, mourning, crying or pain. It could be from personal experience, or what you’ve witnessed. It could be diseases, disasters, emotions, feelings. It could be the things you are finding most frustrating about the current lockdown.
- Pray: Go through your list and give thanks to God that each thing you have listed will be gone in his new creation.

Today

Look out your window and begin to picture what the world pictured in Revelation 21 might look like. Imagine this world with all the things you listed gone forever. What might it feel like, what would it be like to live there? The opening of today’s music video has a similar idea—check it out to help you get started.

Song: [There is a day](#)

Thinking further if you want

To keep thinking further, you could:

- Share your list on WhatsApp with someone else in your RML group. How many things did you list that were the same? See how many things will be gone in the new creation.
- Expand your list, getting more specific. For instance, don’t just put “cancer”, put lung cancer, breast cancer etc. Think about things related to your list that also won’t be there eg: without disease, we won’t need doctors or the NHS. Consider how different the new creation will be!

Meditating on the new creation—day 2

Bible passage: Romans 8:18–25

¹⁸ For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. ¹⁹ For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. ²⁰ For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope ²¹ 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. ²² For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. ²³ 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. ²⁴ For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Thinking about the new creation and prayer (15 mins)

Romans 8 speaks of creation and us waiting for the glory of the new creation (seen in us being made glorious like Jesus) to be revealed.

- How does Romans 8 help you to see that the new creation is something worth waiting for?

In lockdown at the moment, we are waiting for many things. The new creation we're waiting for is incomparable to the bad things we thought about on day 1 (v18), and is far greater than the best things we are looking forward to after lockdown ends. The new creation is not just this creation with sin and suffering removed. It is far better and more glorious (v18).

- Think: think about how you have found waiting for lockdown to end. Think of the thing you are most looking forward to at the end of lockdown. Perhaps a holiday, a time in nature, a great meal out or spending time with a certain person. Why are you looking forward to this? What is so good about it? Picture yourself being there and doing it. Consider the sights, smells and sounds. What will you feel? How does waiting for this help you to understand what it means to waiting for the new creation?
- Pray: ask God to help you wait for the new creation to come, and to long for it to come more.

Today

It can be helpful to memorize Bible verses, to help us remember the hope that we have of a new creation, when we find it hard to wait. Try to memorize a verse from this passage. To do this, read it and say it back to yourself now. Then, later today or tomorrow, at lunch, dinner and before you go to bed, say it or write it down to check you have memorized it. Verse 18, 23 or 24 would be great verses to chose.

Song: to help you memorize a verse, try listening to [this song by Psallos](#) that puts these verses to words:

Thinking further if you want

You could try and memorise the whole passage. Try memorising one verse at a time and add a new verse once you've memorised the last one.

Meditating on the new creation—day 3

Bible passage: Isaiah 65:17–25

¹⁷ “For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth, and the former things shall not be remembered or come into mind.

¹⁸ But be glad and rejoice forever in that which I create; for behold, I create Jerusalem to be a joy, and her people to be a gladness.

¹⁹ I will rejoice in Jerusalem and be glad in my people; no more shall be heard in it the sound of weeping and the cry of distress.

²⁰ No more shall there be in it an infant who lives but a few days, or an old man who does not fill out his days, for the young man shall die a hundred years old, and the sinner a hundred years old shall be accursed.

²¹ They shall build houses and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit.

²² They shall not build and another inhabit; they shall not plant and another eat; for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be, and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands.

²³ They shall not labor in vain or bear children for calamity, for they shall be the offspring of the blessed of the Lord, and their descendants with them.

²⁴ Before they call I will answer; while they are yet speaking I will hear.

²⁵ The wolf and the lamb shall graze together; the lion shall eat straw like the ox, and dust shall be the serpent's food. They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain,” says the Lord.

Note: v20 says “a young man shall die a hundred years old”. This doesn't mean there will be death in the new creation—Isaiah 25 tells us death will be defeated. Isaiah is using picture language to help us understand how different the new creation will be from this world.

Thinking about the new creation and prayer (15 mins)

Isaiah gives us a picture of what the new creation will be like, a good creation without the curse of the Fall.

- Look at Isaiah 65 and list all the good things promised in the new creation. Which one do you find the most exciting? Think what it will be like enjoying those things without the taint of sin or suffering.

The good things we enjoy in this world (and how we feel about them), can offer us a small glimpse into how glorious the new creation will be.

- Think: List 10 good things that you enjoy in this world. It could be places, possessions, nature, food or experiences you've had. Think what it will be like enjoying those things without the taint of sin or suffering.
- Pray: Every time you enjoy something today, thank God for the good things to come in the new creation.

Today

When you go for your walk or run today, imagine how that activity might be different in the new creation. Think about all the bad things that we thought about on day 1 that will be gone, and think about all the good things you thought about today (from your own list and from Isaiah 65) that give you a glimpse of the goodness of the new creation.

Song: All creatures of our God and King

Thinking further if you want

As you do a different activity today, you could consider how it will be transformed in the new creation. It could be your work, or a meal, or something else. Imagine the good things that you will enjoy that aren't spoiled. How does this help you think the new creation is a place worth waiting for and living for?

Meditating on the new creation—day 4

Bible passage: Hebrews 2:5–9

⁵ For it was not to angels that God subjected the world to come, of which we are speaking. ⁶ It has been testified somewhere,

“What is man, that you are mindful of him,
or the son of man, that you care for him?

⁷ You made him for a little while lower than the angels;
you have crowned him with glory and honour,

⁸ putting everything in subjection under his feet.”

Now in putting everything in subjection to him, he left nothing outside his control. At present, we do not yet see everything in subjection to him. ⁹ But we see him who for a little while was made lower than the angels, namely Jesus, crowned with glory and honour because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

Thinking about the new creation and prayer (15 mins)

We thought during our virtual weekend away about the new creation as a place ruled by Jesus. Jesus is seated on the throne in heaven at present (v7–8), and has defeated death, sin and suffering. But these verses look forward to the day when we will see all things in subjection to Jesus (v8), we will see Jesus on the throne, and death, sin and suffering will be brought to an end forever.

- We considered in RML Overview, when we looked at 1 Kings 3–10, the goodness of the world when God is at the centre, and when God’s king rules. Why is it so good that it is Jesus who will be on the throne, ruling in the new creation?
- Think: make a list of 10 things that will be gone from this world when Jesus’s rule is visibly revealed. If you’re finding this hard, you could think about bad or evil things (such as wars or crime) that will be brought to an end and good things that won’t be spoiled or tainted by sin or suffering.
- Pray: pray the Lord’s prayer. As you pray “your kingdom come” consider what it means for the rule of Jesus in the new creation to come:
Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen.

Today

Every time you look at the news today, think about or write down every news item that will not happen in the new creation, in a world ruled by Jesus. Think of all the news associated with lockdown that will not happen in the new creation.

Song: There is a higher throne

Thinking further if you want

Make it a daily habit to look at the news differently. Thank God when you look at the news once a day for all the things that will not happen in the new creation, and think about the new creation, where these events will never happen again.

Meditating on the new creation—day 5

Bible passage: Isaiah 25:6–9

⁶ On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wine,
of rich food full of marrow, of aged wine well refined.

⁷ And he will swallow up on this mountain
the covering that is cast over all peoples,
the veil that is spread over all nations.

⁸ He will swallow up death forever;
and the Lord God will wipe away tears from all faces,
and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth,
for the Lord has spoken.

⁹ It will be said on that day,
“Behold, this is our God; we have waited for him, that he might save us.
This is the Lord; we have waited for him;
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.”

Thinking about the new creation and prayer (15 mins)

Isaiah tells us we can look forward to a glorious feast in the new creation, where God will wipe away the tears from our face. We will enjoy this feast forever because death will be no more.

- Imagine what it will be like to be at the feast. What food do you look forward to eating—think about your favourite meal? What will it feel like to be there? Think of all your senses—touch, taste, smell, sight, sound!
- Think: list 20 things that will be gone in the new creation, where there is no threat of death. You could consider jobs related to death that will be gone (such as doctors or firemen), or places needed because death happens (such as cemeteries) or industries related to the threat of death (such as insurance). Think what the new creation will be like without these there.
- Pray: write a verse from the passage (or another verse you’ve enjoyed so far about the new creation) on a post it note and place it somewhere in the house where you will see it regularly today (bathroom mirror, fridge door, your laptop). Give thanks now, and each time you read it for what it tells you about the new creation

Today

Memorise verse 8, to help you remember that the new creation is a place with no more death. To do this, read it and say it back to yourself now. Then, later today, at lunch, dinner and before you go to bed, say it or write it down to check you have memorized it.

Song: Where O grave is your victory

Thinking further

You could share your list on WhatsApp with someone else in your RML group. How many things did you list that were the same? See how many things will be gone in the new creation.

Try imagining the best things in this world, but without the taint of death. As you look at the good things you enjoy in this world, give thanks for the glimpses of the new creation they give you.

Meditating on the new creation—day 6

Bible passage: Hebrews 11:13–16

¹³ These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. ¹⁴ For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. ¹⁵ If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return. ¹⁶ But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city.

Thinking about the new creation and prayer (15 mins)

We considered Hebrews 11 on the virtual weekend away. It describes the attitude and actions of the people of faith in the Old Testament.

- What did these people of faith think about the new creation?

The new creation is our true, everlasting home, it is where we belong. We are exiles now waiting to be taken home to be with Jesus.

- Think: think about your home, or the situation or place that makes you most feel at home. Why do you like that place so much? What makes it feel like home? How do you feel when you are there? How does what we saw on days 1–5 make you want to call the new creation home? Consider what we've seen in days 1–5 about the new creation. This place is your true, everlasting home. What things you listed about the place you call home on earth are true or will be better in the new creation?
- Pray: pray God would help you see yourself as a stranger and exile in this world, and would help you get to your home, the new creation, by fixing your eyes on Jesus, who we will be there with.

Today

When you think about being at home, or enjoy a home comfort, pray God would help you think of the new creation as your home.

Song: [this song by Psallos](#) puts the words of Hebrews 11 to music:

Thinking further if you want

You could think about these questions:

- If you're at home, how does lockdown show you the limitations of your earthly home compared to your heavenly home?
- If you're not at home, how does being away from home during lockdown help you understand what it means to be a stranger and exile on earth?

Reflect on these words from Hebrews 12:2–3. How do they help us think about getting to our home in the new creation?

² looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. ³ Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted.”

Meditating on the new creation—day 7

Bible passage: Revelation 22:1–6

¹ Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb ² through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. ³ No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him. ⁴ They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. ⁵ And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

⁶ And he said to me, “These words are trustworthy and true. And the Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, has sent his angel to show his servants what must soon take place.”

Thinking about the new creation and prayer (15 mins)

Revelation 22 pictures the day when we will see Jesus face to face in the new creation. It is a picture of prosperity, goodness, security and wonder as we see Jesus face to face. The new creation is good because Jesus is there.

- What does the passage say will happen when we see Jesus face to face? What excites you about this picture?
- Think: consider the person in this world you most enjoy spending time with. What is it that you most enjoy about them?

Jesus is at the centre of the new creation, and we get to enjoy eternity with him, in relationship with him. He is even greater than the person we most enjoy spending time with in this world.

- Think: how do you feel about seeing Jesus face to face, and spending eternity with him?
Consider: What excites you about this? Do you worry you will be disappointed or bored? How does it change your view of the new creation to think that at the centre of the new creation is a person who loved you and died for you?
- Pray: talk to God about how you feel about the new creation being a place where you will see Jesus face to face. Give thanks for the things that you are looking forward to. Ask for his help to appreciate more the good things he has prepared for us and the wonder of seeing Jesus face to face.

Today

The Bible gives us different pictures of the new creation. Different things will excite us about the new creation at different times. We may not feel excited about seeing Jesus face to face.

To help us look forward to being with Jesus in the new creation, you could think back over some of the Bible Overview passages from this year:

- i) think about all you've learned about God and what he's like,
- ii) give thanks for all the things you've learned about God, and give thanks that you will be able to spend eternity with God in the new creation.

Song: Christ is mine forevermore

Thinking further if you want

Revelation 22 picks up imagery from Ezekiel 47, which we considered in RML Overview last term. Why not revisit this passage, and compare the two pictures. What will it be like to be in the new creation? Which part of the image do you most enjoy? Why?

Meditating on the new creation—day 8

Bible Passage: 1 John 3:1–3

¹ See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. ² Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. ³ And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.

Thinking about the new creation and prayer (15 mins)

- What does John say it means to be a child of God? What do these verses tell us about what we will be like in the new creation?

In 1 John, John speaks about a day when we will be made like Jesus. This includes being like Jesus and not sinning. Although we are already forgiven by God for our rebellion against him, one day God's transforming work in us will be completed. We will be like Jesus and will no longer sin. We will be in perfect relationship with Jesus and we will be able to perfectly obey him. This is a promise we saw God make in Jeremiah 31 of new, obedient hearts.

- Think: Reflect on all the ways you have disobeyed God this week. How does your sin frustrate you?
- Pray: John says in 1 John 1:9: "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."
Confess your sin from this last week to God. If this isn't something you regularly do, why not try to do it more often? Ask God to forgive your sins, and give thanks that there is a day coming when God will enable you to perfectly obey him. We can have assurance of the forgiveness of our sins and our future in the new creation, where we will obey Jesus.

Today

Imagine what the day when we will perfectly obey Jesus will look like and feel like—wanting to and being able to perfectly obey Jesus eg: consider, what won't you do, say or think in the new creation.

Song: Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Thinking further if you want

You could re-read Jeremiah 31 and Hebrews 8. Give thanks to God that these new covenant promises are fulfilled in the new creation, through the cross of Jesus.

Reflect of 1 John 2:1–2 and the assurance they give us of the forgiveness of our sins.

Meditating on the new creation—day 9

Bible passage: Romans 8:18–25

¹⁸ For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. ¹⁹ For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. ²⁰ For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope ²¹ 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. ²² For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. ²³ 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. ²⁴ For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Thinking about the new creation and prayer (15 mins)

We looked at Romans 8 on day 2, but today we will consider a different angle in the passage to help us consider something else about the new creation. Paul says that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed in us. The new creation and the glory that will be revealed is incomparable to the bad things we thought about on day 1 (v18), and is far greater than the best things we are looking forward to after lockdown ends that we thought about on day 2. The new creation is not just this creation with sin and suffering removed. It is far better and more glorious (v18).

- In what ways has what you've seen the last 8 days made you believe that more? What most excites you about the new creation?

Verse 21 and 22 speak of creation groaning, longing to be set free from the curse of the Fall, to obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God, when the new creation comes.

- Think: consider what it means for creation to groan, and a time you've seen creation "groan". This may be the creaking of a tree, the cry of a hurt animal or a natural disaster.
- Pray: Romans 8:28 says "And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose." Pray God would complete this work in you so you can be ready for the new creation.

Today

As you go for a walk or run, imagine how good the new creation will be if all this creation is groaning for it. Remember on day 2 how we thought about how you think and feel as you wait for that good thing at the end of lockdown. Can you imagine how creation feels as it groans and waits? What does that tell you about how good the new creation will be?

Song: Creator God

Thinking further if you want

Every time you see a natural disaster or an example of creation groaning on the news, you could pray that God would bring in his new creation, so that this creation will be set free from its bondage to corruption.

How did you get on with memorizing the verse from this passage on day 2? Can you still recite it from memory?

Meditating on the new creation—day 10

Bible passage: Revelation 5:9–13

⁹ And they sang a new song, saying,

“Worthy are you to take the scroll
and to open its seals,

for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God
from every tribe and language and people and nation,

¹⁰ and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God,
and they shall reign on the earth.”

¹¹ Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many
angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, ¹² saying with a loud voice,

“Worthy is the Lamb who was slain,
to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might
and honour and glory and blessing!”

¹³ And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in
them, saying,

“To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb
be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!”

Thinking about the new creation and prayer (15 mins)

In Revelation 5, John depicts Jesus, the lamb who was slain who is on the throne, surrounded by those from every tribe and tongue and people and nation, who are praising him.

- What does this passage help you appreciate about the new creation?

We could read this picture and think the new creation is a boring, non stop time of singing songs.

- Think: what from this passage suggests that is not the case? What from the last 9 days of Bible passages shows that this is not the case? Try and picture this day in your mind. Think of all the people who will be there. Think about what they will be saying to Jesus and why.

All of us belong to a different tribe or nation or people. But in Philippians 3:20, Paul describes Christians as citizens of heaven.

- Pray: as a citizen of heaven, ask for God’s help to eagerly await the return of Jesus and to set your mind on the new creation now, despite the temptations to focus on life in this world.

Today

Our primary tie as Christians is to the new creation, not to a country in this world. As you pass people of every tribe and language and people and nation on your walk or run today, think ahead to this day when people of every tribe and language and nation will stand round the throne praising Jesus. Think of all the people in our Church family who, although we cannot see them at the moment, will be with us on that day.

Song: Love Divine

Thinking further if you want

You could message someone you know at St Helen’s, of a different tribe, tongue, language or nation, and encourage them with a truth you’ve enjoyed about the new creation.

Meditating on the new creation—day 11

Bible passage: 1 Corinthians 15:35–49

³⁵ But someone will ask, “How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?” ³⁶ You foolish person! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. ³⁷ And what you sow is not the body that is to be, but a bare kernel, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. ³⁸ But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body. ³⁹ For not all flesh is the same, but there is one kind for humans, another for animals, another for birds, and another for fish. ⁴⁰ There are heavenly bodies and earthly bodies, but the glory of the heavenly is of one kind, and the glory of the earthly is of another. ⁴¹ There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for star differs from star in glory. ⁴² So is it with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable; what is raised is imperishable. ⁴³ It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness; it is raised in power. ⁴⁴ It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body. ⁴⁵ Thus it is written, “The first man Adam became a living being”; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. ⁴⁶ But it is not the spiritual that is first but the natural, and then the spiritual. ⁴⁷ The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. ⁴⁸ As was the man of dust, so also are those who are of the dust, and as is the man of heaven, so also are those who are of heaven. ⁴⁹ Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven.

Thinking about the new creation and prayer (15 mins)

The Bible talks about the new creation as a physical place, where we will have real bodies. Our view of the new creation can be tainted by false images from the TV of us floating like angels with harps on clouds. But this isn't the Biblical picture of the new creation.

- How does this passage describe our resurrection bodies? How does this passage help you consider what the new creation will be like?
- Think: think about your journey home from work that you usually take. How might it be changed in the new creation? Imagine what it would be like in the physical new creation eg: which shops will be gone, which buildings will no longer be used, what will the people around you be doing?
- Pray: talk to God about how you honestly feel about the new creation. Do you struggle to believe it is a physical place? Ask for his help to believe it is a physical place. Ask him to help you look forward to the new creation.

Today

Imagine doing a days work in the physical new creation. How might a day of work be different in the new creation, with the curse of the Fall lifted and Jesus's rule restored? Think about what you normally feel and think, your colleagues, your frustrations, your worries. How will they be changed?

Song: Awake, awake O Zion

Thinking further if you want

As you think about your journey home or your days work, you could include some of the ideas in your picture that we thought about from days 1-10. If you start to run out of ideas, picture a journey you regularly make and how that will be different. If you find that hard, go onto google maps, go to St Helen's, and explore the streets around it. How might they be different in the new creation?

Note – we aren't saying these buildings or places will definitely be there in the new creation. But hopefully thinking about these places will help us appreciate what the new creation will be like.

Meditating on the new creation—day 12

Bible passage: 1 Corinthians 15:50–58

⁵⁰ I tell you this, brothers: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. ⁵¹ Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, ⁵² in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. ⁵³ For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. ⁵⁴ When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: “Death is swallowed up in victory.” ⁵⁵ “O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?” ⁵⁶ The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. ⁵⁷ But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁵⁸ Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labour is not in vain.

Thinking about the new creation and prayer (15 mins)

We thought yesterday about 1 Corinthians 15. Paul continues in this passage speaking about the day when we will be resurrected.

- How does this passage describe what happens when Jesus returns? How does it make you feel?
- Think: one way to think about the new creation more may be to read literature that seeks to help us appreciate the new creation. While not describing the new creation itself, the authors help us to imagine what it may be like there. Read this description of the world Aslan rules (a character like Jesus, ruling a place like the new creation) in “The Last Battle” by CS Lewis. This is the final book in the Narnia series, where Aslan takes the children to their true “home”, which Narnia, the place they visited, was just a shadow of. How does this quote help you appreciate what the new creation will be like?
“The Eagle is right,” said the Lord Digory. “The Narnia you’re thinking of . . . was only a shadow or a copy of the real Narnia, which has always been here and always will be here: just as our own world, England and all, is only a shadow or copy of something in Aslan’s real world. You need not mourn over Narnia, Lucy. All of the old Narnia that mattered, all the dear creatures, have been drawn into the real Narnia through the Door. And of course it is different; as different as a real thing is from a shadow or as waking life is from a dream.” . . . The new [Narnia] was a deeper country: every rock and flower and blade of grass looked as if it meant more. I can’t describe it any better than that: if you ever get there, you will know what I mean. It was the Unicorn who summed up what everyone was feeling. He . . . cried: “I have come home at last! This is my real country! I belong here. This is the land I have been looking for all my life, though I never knew it till now. The reason why we loved the old Narnia is that it sometimes looked a little like this.”
- Pray: use 1 Corinthians 15:54–57 to praise God that because of the cross, death no longer defeats us, but is our gateway through which we get to the new creation. 1 Corinthians 1:7–8 says that God will sustain us to the end as we wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. Pray God would sustain you until the day death is swallowed up in victory.

Today

Imagine yourself with the characters in the scene above. What do you enjoy most about the description?

Song: We belong to the day

Thinking further if you want

Try reading a chapter of a CS Lewis book—you could pick chapters 14–16 of *The Voyage of the Dawn Treader* or Chapter 16 of *The Last Battle*. How does this chapter help you think about the new creation?

Meditating on the new creation—day 13

Bible passage: Isaiah 60:1, 5-9, 13, 17

¹ Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

⁵ Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and exult, because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

⁶ A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall bring good news, the praises of the Lord.

⁷ All the flocks of Kedar shall be gathered to you; the rams of Nebaioth shall minister to you; they shall come up with acceptance on my altar, and I will beautify my beautiful house.

⁸ Who are these that fly like a cloud, and like doves to their windows?

⁹ For the coastlands shall hope for me, the ships of Tarshish first, to bring your children from afar, their silver and gold with them, for the name of the Lord your God, and for the Holy One of Israel, because he has made you beautiful

¹³ The glory of Lebanon shall come to you, the cypress, the plane, and the pine, to beautify the place of my sanctuary, and I will make the place of my feet glorious

¹⁷ Instead of bronze I will bring gold, and instead of iron I will bring silver; instead of wood, bronze, instead of stones, iron. I will make your overseers peace and your taskmasters righteousness.

Thinking about the new creation and prayer (15 mins)

Today we have combined our questions about the passage and “Think” section.

- Write a list of 10 things that if they happened or if you had them, you would consider them a luxury. Be extravagant. Don't just think about having lots of money. How would you spend it?

Isaiah paints a picture of how abundant life will be in the new creation. A quick google search reveals that a camel today (verse 6) costs £40,000.

- How does this help you understand the picture Isaiah is painting? Guess how many camels you could fit in your flat or house. How much money this is?
- How does Isaiah 60 challenge the view that “the new creation will just be a slightly more comfortable version of life in the West?” How do these promises in Isaiah go beyond the promises we've seen so far?
- Pray: Psalm 136:1 says “Give thanks to the Lord for He is good, for his steadfast love endures forever”. Give thanks to God for His steadfast love that means through Christ, we will be able to enjoy these new creation blessings.

Today

Imagine what it will be like to have all these things. Imagine the space you will need to fit them. How does what is promised compare to your list of 10 luxuries? You may think that thinking like this is materialistic. But remember, these things are only possible because God is here (v13). This is similar to our Overview study in 1 Kings 3–10—but so much better!

Song: [10,000 reasons](#)

Thinking further

Try reading the rest of Isaiah 60. Think about the different pictures Isaiah uses to describe how glorious our future will be. Imagine what it will be like—if some of the pictures seem confusing, try and translate them into language that is more understandable e.g.: when Isaiah speaks in verse 22 of the “least one becoming a clan”, imagine a homeless man or baby becoming the prime minister.

Meditating on the new creation—day 14

Bible passage: Ephesians 1:15–19a

¹⁵ For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, ¹⁶ I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, ¹⁷ that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, ¹⁸ having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹ and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe

Thinking about the new creation and prayer (15 mins)

In Ephesians 1:15–19a, in response to remembering the blessings we have in Christ (Ephesians 1:1–14), Paul prays that we would have the eyes of our hearts enlightened so we would truly know Christ, and the blessings we have in him.

- How does Paul show that thinking about the new creation is a normal part of a Christian's life? Why does Paul pray for what he does?
- Think: how have you found the experience of thinking about the new creation this week? List what has excited you about the new creation.
- Pray: these new creation promises are ours, by the grace of God, in Christ. Use the words of Paul's prayer in Ephesians 1:15–19a, to ask for God to help you to know Christ and the hope to which he has called you.

Today

Make a plan now for how will you continue thinking about the new creation going forward.

Song: There is a fountain filled with blood

Thinking further if you want

Think about the following questions, that you can keep asking yourself (some of these we considered as a group on the weekend away):

- If you were told that Jesus will return this week, how would you feel? Why?
- If you've found it hard to think about the new creation this week:
 1. Pray and asking for God's to help you appreciate what he promises
 2. Chat about it with someone
 3. What specifically about the new creation you find hard to think about or believe
 4. Perhaps you think these promises are too good to be true, if so turn to today's prayer
 5. It is possible there is something in your life, such as an un-repent of sin that is making it hard to believe the promises of God. If so, confess it now to God.
- If you find it hard to believe that the new creation is real, go back to the resurrection of Jesus—1 Corinthians 15. If Jesus is risen, our resurrections must follow, and we must inhabit a physical new world with our resurrection bodies.

You could return to one of the earlier days, and go through again the suggested thinking. How has your view of the new creation grown over this week? What excites you most about what you saw on this day?

Meditating on the new creation—thinking further

We hope the weekend away and these daily devotionals have started to make you long to be in the new creation more. Why not make a plan for how and when you will keep thinking about the new creation. You could try and think about it every time you do one of the daily activities suggested (run or walk, work, journey home etc.). You could include it as part of your daily Bible reading once a week.

You could start by going back through the “thinking about the new creation” suggestions from each day. Try doing them again. How has your view of the new creation changed this week?

Here are some Psalms you could think about and pray through as you consider heading to the new creation: Psalm 84 and Psalm 16

Here are some New Testament Bible passages you could consider to keep thinking about the new creation, or having a mindset set on the future:

Hebrews 10 and 12

Colossians 3:1–4

2 Corinthians 4:16–5:5

2 Thessalonians 1:3–10

1 Peter 1:3–4

Revelation 7:15–17

Here are some other suggestions for other things you could do to keep thinking about the new creation.

You could read some Christian literature such as books by CS Lewis which help us understand the Christian life, and the new creation. The Narnia books are particularly helpful.

Other books you could read:

True Devotion by Alan Chapple—helping thinking about our relationship with God and how we should meditate on the Bible

Eternity changes everything by Stephen Witmer (easy read)

Death and the afterlife by Paul Williamson (harder read)

Other music you could listen to: the whole Psallos album about Hebrews or our new creation weekend Spotify playlist.

Perhaps you have tried other things to think about the new creation. Our list of suggestions is just the start of what we hope is a lifetime of looking forward to the new creation. Let us know what they are so we can update this for future years. [Email Nick](#).