

**A New Creation: An Easter Series
Individual or Small Group Study Guide**

<p>Week 1: Hope for All Creation Sunday – Mark 16:1-15 & Psalm 96:1-2, 11-13 Monday – Romans 1:20 Tuesday – Hebrews 11:1-3 Wednesday – Psalm 8 Thursday – Isaiah 45:11-12 Friday – Colossians 1:16 Saturday – Genesis 2:9</p>	<p>Week 4: Facing Creation’s Brokenness Sunday – Romans 8:19-25 Monday – Isaiah 24:4-5 Tuesday – Matthew 24:8 Wednesday – 2 Peter 3:10 Thursday – Nehemiah 9:6 Friday – Psalm 18:6-15 Saturday – Revelation 3:15-17</p>
<p>Week 2: God’s Wide World Sunday – Psalm 104:5-24 & Job 12:7-10 Monday – Genesis 1:1-4 Tuesday – John 1:1-5 Wednesday – Ecclesiastes 3:1-15 Thursday – Matthew 6:25-35 Friday – Job 38:25-27 Saturday – Job 38:34-41</p>	<p>Week 5: A New Creation Sunday – 2 Corinthians 5:17-21 Monday – 2 Timothy 2:2 Tuesday – Psalm 71:18 Wednesday – Proverbs 13:20 Thursday – 1 Peter 5:1-9 Friday – Isaiah 11:6-9 Saturday – Revelation 21:1</p>
<p>Week 3: A Special Responsibility Sunday – Genesis 1:28-31, Genesis 9:8-17 Monday – Matthew 1:1-13 Tuesday – 1 John 3:1-16 Wednesday – Romans 8:15-17 Thursday – Matthew 25:34-37 Friday – John 1:12-13 Saturday – 1 Peter 2:4-12</p>	

**Week 4 “Facing Creation’s Brokenness”
Romans 8:19-25**

OPENING PRAYER:

OPENING PRAYER: Lord, as we turn to your word today, help us face the reality of

creation’s brokenness and to take equally seriously the hope that you offer us and all the creation in Jesus Christ. Amen.

Quote: “For there is always light. If only we’re brave enough to see it. If only we’re brave enough to be it.” – Amanda Gorman

STARTER QUESTIONS:

BREAKING THE ICE: What is the most creative thing that you have recycled, reused, or given new life to?

WRESTLING WITH THE WORD:

Read Romans 8:19-25

1. In verse 23, Paul writes that we “groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.” In verse 22, Paul writes, “The whole creation has been groaning together as it suffers together the pains of labor.” What do you think is similar and different between these groanings?
2. What causes our groaning?
3. How will both we and creation “be set free from its enslavement to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God”?
4. What are the “first fruits of the Spirit” (verse 23)? In what ways do they allow us to live as people of hope?

NEXT STEPS:

1. How do we, as human beings, contribute to the groaning of creation? Why do we sometimes ignore the suffering of creation?
2. In what ways can we help to free creation from suffering and brokenness?
3. Where do you find “hope for what we do not see” when it comes to the whole creation’s suffering?

CLOSING PRAYER:

God, you call us your children and promise freedom from death and decay. Help us to live into that freedom not only for our own sake, but for the sake of the whole world you have created. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

