



Sunday Teaching Discussion Guide: AT THE MOVIES 10.07.2018

Recap:

- Nostalgia can be beneficial because we can celebrate the past; however, if we celebrate the past without looking to the future, we are missing something vital.
- The writer of Revelation and Isaiah were encouraging others to see that God isn't simply in their past, he is in their present and in their future, preparing things they have yet to even imagine. God is, as the writer of Revelation reveals, making all things new.
- As long as we're looking back to the "good old days," longing to recapture the feelings of our past, we'll miss the God who didn't stay in the past, but is now and always ahead of us, preparing a new thing.
- Remembering matters. Jesus told his disciples to pause, take communion and remember. He also told them to go and make disciples. Looking back propels us forward as we remember God's grace and his gift of life to our lives.
- As we remember, however, we cannot let the past become an idol that we build up. Instead, remember and celebrate the past so that the future can be just as monumental.

Discuss:

- Have you seen or read "Ready Player One"? What do you make of the story?
- This sermon was about looking back and looking forward. Share a fond memory that you have. What does it mean to you? Does this memory influence your present or future?
- READ Revelation 21:1-5a
- The image of a bride is used throughout Scripture (used for the church and for the new Jerusalem). Why do you think a bride is a good image for the Biblical writers to use?
- What do you think the voice means by saying "God's dwelling place is now among the people"? What do you think that entails?
- READ Isaiah 43:16-19a
- Why do you think the Israelites might have tended to relish so much on the memories of what God had for them in the past?
- What do you think the "new thing" God was doing (in verse 19)?
- Are there ways that you can honor and remember the past while still looking forward to the future? If so, how do you do this?
- Looking ahead, what do you think God is doing in your present and future?

Pray: Invite members of your group to share prayer requests. Give a short prayer thanking God for your group discussion and asking God to be with the requests that have been shared.

Read at Home: Additional Readings about Remembering

- Isaiah 46
- John 14:1-27
- 1 Corinthians 11:17-26