

# An Enchanted World

## Small Group Discussion Guide—9/2/2018

What do you imagine Heaven to be like? Be specific – what are the sights, smells, sounds, etc. that you imagine and/or hope to find in Heaven?

Let's read about the beautiful world God created and what it was like in its intended state – before the Fall. As you read, picture each of the things described, as though you were there watching it unfold with God – think about the colors, the smells, the sounds. Make a note of the things that are particularly appealing, or that stir your soul in some way.

- Either read individually or aloud as a group through Genesis 1:1 – 2: 25.
- Share with the group what parts are most beautiful to you.

Through the description in these chapters we get a glimpse of the creativity, and the beauty, of God. Even though we now live in a fallen world, we can still see and delight in God's creation and His beauty today.

- Where do you most see God in this world? Think of at least 3 things in this world that put you in awe of God and share with the group.

Our whole lives can be lived in delight of God!

- How do you feel about the idea of finding God's joy in your daily routines – work, parenting, etc?
- Are there certain things you do that you think God delights in?
- How can you bring God's joy into the places you're at – your work, your home, your community?

Yet even the good things we see and experience on Earth are only a shadow of what is to come. Read the Message Translation of Romans 8:18-21 below:

*Romans 8:18-21 The Message (MSG)*

*18-21 That's why I don't think there's any comparison between the present hard times and the coming good times. The created world itself can hardly wait for what's coming next. Everything in creation is being more or less held back. God reins it in until both creation and all the creatures are ready and can be released at the same moment into the glorious times ahead. Meanwhile, the joyful anticipation deepens.*

- Paul describes the coming good times as “good” and “glorious”, in contrast to the present times as being “hard” and “reined in.” What do you think this means? How does this make you feel?

Make sure and pray together as a group, giving thanks to God that through Jesus Christ we are able to not only find joy in our current lives, but also we can joyfully anticipate the good and glorious times ahead.