



Go Outside | Doug Wekenman | 12.15.2024

Weekly Study

SHARE

As group members get settled, take a few minutes to check in with everyone and see how life is going. Share an exciting story from this week, your highs and lows, an answered prayer, or something you're struggling with. If someone is really struggling, rally the group around them and take a few moments to pray over them.

- **Share a high and a low from last week.**
- **What is one thing you're grateful for this Christmas season?**

GROW

This week, Pastor Doug encouraged us to rediscover the joy and wonder that come from focusing on the glory of our Creator by spending time in His creation. In his message, *Go Outside*, we are invited not only to step outdoors physically but also to move beyond our comfort zones, our thoughts, and ourselves as we wait on the Lord to fulfill His promises, no matter the season we are in.

In Genesis 15, we see Abram struggling with doubt and anxiety about the future. In response, God takes him outside, tells him to look up at the stars, and asks him to trust that His plans will transform Abram's greatest disappointment into something far more glorious than the beauty of the night sky—something beyond what Abram could imagine.

This week, take a moment to step outside—out of your home, your comfort zone, and your own thoughts. Spend time in creation, worshiping the unchanging character of our Creator as you wait for seasons to change.

Read Matthew 2:1-2, Genesis 15:1-6

- **What were your takeaways from this week’s message? Explain.**
- **When was the last time you intentionally stepped outside and let God’s creation speak to you? When was the last step outside your comfort zone? What about the last time you stepped outside of yourself (mind)? What was revealed?**
- **What area of your life do you feel “trapped inside?” What’s keeping you from going outside? Explain.**

M O V E

Doug challenged us to reclaim our sense of wonder by using the same imagination that often fuels our worries to instead fuel our worship. He calls us to let God’s creation tell a better story than the one we replay in our minds—a story of His glory, His goodness, and His control over all things.

To do this, we must find or create our Eremos—an undistracted place of silence and solitude with God, often in the midst of His creation. While we may physically withdraw to quiet and isolated places, the key is to bring an open and undistracted mind with us. Simply being in creation is not enough; transformation happens only when our attention and presence work together. What we give our attention to reveals who we are becoming, and for a moment or experience to truly transform us, it must capture our attention AND inspire application.

This week, may we seek our Eremos with intentionality, allowing God’s presence and creation to shape us in profound ways as we live our lives differently.

Read James 2:22-23, Job 12:7-10, Isaiah 55:8-13

- **What has held your attention this season, and how has it shaped who you've become (for better or worse)? Explain.**
- **What are some practical ways we can create moments of 'eremos' (solitude and silence with God) in our busy lives?**
- **What does it mean to 'worship in your waiting,' and how can we practically apply this concept in challenging times?**

P R A Y

Thank God for His creation and the ways He speaks through it. Ask for renewed wonder, faith during difficult seasons, and the ability to worship while waiting.