

Chapter 10 Discussion Questions

Opening Question: How do you see a longing for home in books, movies, and magazines? Is this an American experience, or do you see it across cultures?

- 1) In what ways do we attempt to create perfect homes, both physically and relationally? How can this pursuit grow idolatrous at times?
- 2) What words would you use to describe your own desires for home? How would you describe the home you are trying create?
- 3) In what ways do we conflate our identity with our home? How do we allow our physical homes to define or represent us? How do we allow our marital or motherhood status to do the same? What problems arise when we place our identity in our earthly homes?
- 4) Read Philippians 3:17-21.
 - a. Paul contrasts those who are citizens of heaven with those who walk as enemies of Christ. What are the characteristics of each?
 - b. How would we live differently if our identity were firmly rooted in our heavenly home? What would it look like to spend our time and efforts for that kingdom?
- 5) C.S. Lewis writes, “I must keep alive in myself the desire for my true country . . . I must make it the main object of life to press on to the other country and to help other do the same.” How can we encourage a desire for our true home in both ourselves and also in others?
- 6) Read Ephesians 2:19-21 and 1 Peter 2:9-12.
 - a. What encouraging truths do you learn about your identity from these two passages?
 - b. In what ways are “no longer strangers and aliens” and at the same times “sojourners and exiles”? What does it look like to live as both?
 - c. Read Hebrews 11:13-16. What can we learn from saints before us about how to live as “strangers and exiles”?
- 7) Consider this quote from Marshall Segal: “God not only knit you together in your mother’s womb; he also sovereignly orchestrated all the places you would call home—the periods and boundaries of your dwelling place. You do not have a home by accident. Your home is an invitation from God to seek God, and a commission from God to help others seek God.” How does this quote encourage you to use your home, even when “home” may not be in a city you prefer, or may not be full of the family you envisioned?
- 8) Read 2 Corinthians 5:1-9.
 - a. How does this passage illuminate the temporary nature of our earthly dwellings?
 - b. How does knowing that something better is coming allow us to be of good courage and live hopeful lives in the midst of our groaning and longing?
- 9) As you think back over the chapter, what particular truth resonated with you? How will you live differently in light of that new understanding?