

Discussion Questions

Where Good Things Come From

Revelation 11:19-12:17

(Have you ever given birth to a child or been part of a birth somehow? Share what it was like.)

We often think that church should look and feel something like this:



But when you stick around long enough & get involved, it often looks more like this:



- Can you think of a time in your life when “doing church” was really messy and painful but God birthed something beautiful out of it?

In Scripture God says, “*Behold, I make all things new.*”

- What do you wish you could see made new right now (either at your church or in your life)?
- Why do you think God seems to take His time in making all things new?

In Revelation 12 we see a picture of a woman that gives birth to the ruler of all nations—Jesus. Jesus said, “*Whoever does the will of God is my mother and brother and sister.*” Brothers and sisters have the same mother. So, the mother of Jesus is the mother of us. That means we are this woman and we too are born of the woman. The woman is the people of God . . . giving birth to His Will in this world.—Peter Hiett

It is easy to feel pressure to make things right & good—to try to give birth to Jesus in ourselves and others but just like a woman can’t make her baby be born, we can’t make Good...we must give birth to the Good.

- In your mind, how is *giving birth* to the Good different than trying to *make* the Good?
- Are there any areas in which you are trying hard to make Good (rather than letting God birth it through you). If you like, take a moment to surrender them to God?

As the Church—the woman in travail in agony, anguish, and torment, to deliver, we have an enemy who battles us with a river that comes from his mouth. He’s been thrown down and yet he lies to us.

- Take a moment to identify some of the lies that he whispers to you in the midst of your travail.

In Revelation 12, it is the earth that swallows up the lies. Is it possible that the testimony of the earth to who God is and His goodness swallows up the lies of the enemy? “You see a sunset, smell a flower or smile at a newborn. You see creation and realize: you are not the Creator; you’re the created.”—P.H.

Ps. 119:64a says, “The earth is filled with your love, LORD...”

- How has the Lord revealed His love and ministered to your heart through this earth?
- How might God want to use it to set you free from the river of lies that come from the enemy?
- Can you think of ways you might enjoy the beauty of the earth and make space for God to minister to your heart and free you from lies this week and in the weeks to come?
- Try to make space this week to enjoy the beauty that God has surrounded you with and let the lies of the enemy be swallowed up by the testimony of God’s goodness on this planet.

**These questions were created by Kimberly Weynen*