

Big Picture, Week 5: Mobile Home (Creation NT)

INTRO:

[Leader Note: Highlight the van life trend—the idea of traveling to various places and bringing home wherever you go. It's an attractive idea, to have home with us wherever we go, but it's not a realistic way for most of us to live. We have to leave our homes to live our lives. But what if there **was** a way to have home with you without having to buy a van? You can place this intro before or after the SERIES RECAP based on your discernment]

SERIES RECAP

- For the past few weeks we have been looking at the Big Picture of the Bible. We are asking: What is God's story, and where do we fit into it? To answer this, we are studying the Bible and how God creates a home to be with us.
- The whole story of the Bible can be summed in the phrase "**God with us.**" God wants *His people* to be in *His place* enjoying *His presence*.
- For the past four weeks we've seen a little bit of how that story plays out in the Old Testament. Here's the story so far:
 1. **CREATION:** First, we saw that God wants to be with us, so He created a perfect home for his people to live in. He created us all with a desire for **home**.
 2. **FALL:** But Adam and Eve chose to live their lives in a way that put God's home in danger. They disobeyed God and so to protect his home from the destroying power of sin, Adam & Eve had to leave. The relationships that God had created us for were broken. We are far from the home God intended.
 3. **REDEMPTION:** God was not satisfied for his people to be far off, so he planned to rescue them and bring them back home. In Exodus, God showed this by redeeming and saving his people from the power of slavery in Egypt and bringing them to a home in the Promised Land.
 4. **RESTORATION:** Even when God redeemed his people, the problem of sin remained—the thing that kept his people from truly being at home. But he promises one day to restore all of his people to the home he desired from the beginning. He promises a homecoming.
- **Today, in the light of that story and promise, we will see how God brings his home to us.**

BIG IDEA: In Jesus, God brings his home to us.

Point 1: Jesus can renovate our broken homes. (Read John 1:1-5)

Do these words that begin the Gospel of John remind you of anything? [Leader note: This could be a good opportunity to have some interaction/participation with your students.] Does anyone know the first words of the Bible? (“In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.”) John reminds us of Genesis by using similar language in this passage! For example:

<p>“In the beginning” (John 1:1)</p>	<p>Reminds us of the very beginning of creation in Genesis when God made a home to live with his people and shows us that Jesus was already there!</p>
<p>The Word (John 1:1)</p>	<p>The very first thing God does is create by speaking, “Then God said let there be light, and there was light” (Genesis 1:3). In John 1, John tells us that everything was created through the Word, and the Word = Jesus, which means everything was created through Jesus.</p>
<p>“The light shines in the darkness” (John (1:5)</p>	<p>At the very beginning, the first thing God creates is the light (“let there be light”). In John chapter 1, we learn that Jesus himself is the light of the world that shines in the darkness.</p>

- There are many exciting parallels between John 1 and Genesis 1, but we’re just gonna focus on these. What does this mean for us though? It means a couple specific things:
 1. **Jesus is God** (the Word was God)--He’s more than just a human being. He’s the same God who desires to be at home with his people from the very beginning.
 2. **Jesus is the Creator**--God created once before, and Jesus brings a **new creation**. Since God’s home was broken down by us, Jesus came to renovate. He wants to make all things new, starting with our hearts. Jesus can make broken people whole and he can renovate our broken home.
 3. **Jesus is the Light of the World**--He is the light that shines in the darkness. He shines in *our darkness*. And he’s more powerful than that darkness.

- **Illustration:** Leaving the (porch) light on at home. A sign of welcome and warmth. Or a night light.

- **Implication:** We can believe and trust that Jesus is **good** and he is **God**, and he is offering life and light to us. Something to keep in mind as Halloween season is approaching (or just passed), reminding us of darkness and death in the world and in our lives. Where do you see those things in your life? Where do you need Jesus to shine his light and begin a new creation?

<Transition: If Jesus is the light of the world and brought for everyone (v. 4), why is the world so dark? John tells us in v. 10>

Point 2: God calls us home, and we prefer to stay homeless (Read vv. 10-13)

- God came to his own people, but they rejected him. We see the story play itself out over and over again throughout the Bible. God comes to rescue his people over and over again, yet they reject him. God comes to his people, and they wander away. In the Old Testament, God made his home with his people through the temple, but the problem of sin always kept them from fully embracing that relationship—they were prone to wander.
- It's often the same for us: God calls us home, and we prefer to stay homeless. The sin in our lives leads to rejecting the gift of home that God invites us to.
- **Illustration:** [Leader note: Think of a time someone was offered something they needed, but they rejected it. Like when a teacher/school offers tutoring or extra credit to bring up a grade, but students choose not to use it.]
- **Implication:** We've been living in a state of homelessness. We all have houses that we live in, but none of us are truly home since we have "un-homed" ourselves from God.

<So what's the way forward from this homelessness? The beautiful thing is that even though time after time we choose homelessness rather than God, God doesn't give up but even increases his efforts. We see that ultimately in Jesus.>

Point 3: Jesus is God's home in human form. (Read 1:14, 18)

- In the song "What a Beautiful Name," there's a line that says, "You didn't want heaven without us, so Jesus you brought Heaven down." That line points to the beauty of this verse and the Gospel.
- Jesus came to show us who God is. We've been learning that the whole story of the Bible can be summed up in the phrase, "God with us." We see that most clearly when Jesus, who is God in human form, **comes to us to make his home among us.**
- The MSG translation puts it this way, "The Word became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighborhood." Jesus comes not to bring us home, but **to bring home to us.** In every other religion, humans have to work to do good to earn their way up to God. In Christianity, God brings his home to us. A relationship with Jesus is like that feeling when you get home after a long day out, or a long road trip.
- The good news is that Jesus makes his home in us, and he does that while defeating the sin that kept us homeless before. He's extending the invite to us all—not to come home, but to let home come to us and make us new.

BIG IDEA: In Jesus, God brings his home to us.

[Leader note: you can add this section anywhere you see fit in the message and word it how you'd like.] Each week of this series, we're exploring more of the Big Picture of God's story and how he is calling us home. It's like we're putting together a big puzzle. The little pieces by themselves might not make much sense, but as you put the pieces together, the big picture starts to become clear. So each week we're going to add some pieces to our puzzle to see what God has in store for us. Here's how we left our puzzle last week. [Show first image below]. Let's add a couple pieces from week 3! [Show image two below]

Image #4



Image #5

