



LIFE ON
THIS SIDE
OF THE
CURTAIN
IN LIGHT OF
THAT SIDE



OPEN

Our sin created a barrier, but God created a way.

This is the story of Easter that we remember this weekend that the Father through the Son removed the barrier so that we could have a relationship with God.

This weekend on both Good Friday and Easter Sunday we examined the the barrier that Jesus removed through his death and resurrection. Although the barrier between us and God was spiritual reality it was captured in the physical reality of a curtain that hung in the dwelling place of God among his people. It was this curtain that created a barrier separating the sinfulness of humanity on one side, from the holiness of God on the other. Easter helps us view both sides of the curtain so we can fully appreciate life on this side of the curtain which was made possible because of what Jesus did on that side of the curtain on the cross.

READ

- **Read Matthew 27:50-54.** List all the events that happened when Jesus died on the cross. Why was the temple curtain tearing from top to top so significant?
- **Read Exodus 33:15-18.** After Israel broke God's law Moses pleaded to God for his presence to remain with his people. Moses knew that they could not be a people of the promise if they were not a people of the Presence of God.
 - What does this prayer of Moses teach you about his priorities? How does his prayer challenge the way you relate to God? Do you focus on his presence in your life? How could you do this more?

REFLECT

“Whatever else, the people of Israel understood themselves to be the people of the Presence, the people among whom the eternal God had chosen to dwell on earth.” —Gordon Fee

- **Read Ephesians 2:13-18.**
 - How do these verses describe what life on this side of the curtain looks like for us because of what Jesus Christ has done?
 - What is most meaningful to you as you reflect on the work of Jesus on the Cross?
- **In Hebrews 10:19-25,** we see that because of Jesus Christ we now have continual access to God's presence.
 - What does it look like for you to draw near to God?
 - How would you describe your experience of God's presence recently?
 - What practices or disciplines do you find most helpful in drawing near to God and abiding in Him?
- **In Hebrews 10:24-25** we are called to actively find ways to encourage one another.
 - How has the encouragement of others helped propel you toward a greater love and devotion to Jesus?
 - What are some practical ways you can intentionally encourage others this week in this way?

APPLY/PRAY

- When his body is torn on the cross the curtain is torn so we can now “cross the line” and personally experience the presence of God. How does this truth make you feel? Pray that to Jesus as a group.
- What is one way you feel Jesus inviting you closer into God's presence in your life? Pray that for each other today.
- Go around the room and speak words of encouragement and affirmation. How do you see Jesus revealed in each member? Bless each other with words of encouragement.
- Pray for our church elders, staff, leaders, and volunteers during this time of transition. Pray for God's will to be done.