

## **I. Introduction**

- We all have experienced homesickness. Who's ever longed to be home after spending time away from home?
  - You know the feeling. Maybe the last few days of camp. The last leg returning from Colorado(that annoying youth pastor, everyone pick up trash.) After testing all day or a full day of drama and disappointment, counting the minutes to the end of school to just get home. Whether you are an introvert or extrovert, outgoing or not, each one of us has had a moment of homesickness. Why?
    - I want to be in the place where I can just chill and be myself, I don't have to impress anyone, no longer have to perform, Relax, vegg-out, I have my own shower, bed, warmth, comforts.
- Like in the wizard of oz, Dorothy famously said "there's no place like home." This is so true.
- At times, each of us has a longing for home. We desire it because home is a source of great comfort. But home can also be a source of pain. By having a home, you have relationships, love and trust and happiness but also loss and hopelessness and emptiness. Our strong relationships grow weak and we are deserted by people we've trusted. There's no other place in our lives that has more power to mold us, to encourage, or to devastate than home. Home is a special place. But our home is not perfect. Here's what we know about our homes, it doesn't completely satisfy our longing even the best homes. And even in those deeply satisfying homes, everyone still has to say good-bye.
- What then completely satisfies our desires for home? That's what our Fall study is about. We are going to answer this question. Nothing on this Earth can completely satisfy our deepest longings not even church or your small group. The answer to this question is Home with a capitol H. Heaven and the New Earth will satisfy our deepest longings. This Earth was never intended to satisfy us completely. What satisfies? Going to the place you were created to live, for your true home with our Father.

## **II. Small Group Questions**

### **1. Interesting question/ would you rather**

- You have won a prize. The prize has two options, and you can choose either (but not both). The first option is a year in Europe with a monthly stipend of \$2,000. The second option is ten minutes on the moon. Which option do you select?
- Every person you have ever sinned against is invited to a banquet where you are the guest of honor. No one will be in attendance except you, the collection of ones you formerly offended, and the catering service. After the meal, you are asked to give a fifteen-minute speech to the assembly. What do you talk about?
- At long last, someone invents "the dream VCR." This machine allows you to tape an entire evening's worth of your own dreams, which you can then watch at your leisure. However, the inventor of the dream VCR will only allow you to use this device if you agree to a strange caveat: When you watch your dreams, you must do so with your family and your closest friends in the same room. They get to watch your dreams along with you. And if you don't agree to this, you can't use the dream VCR. Would you still do this?
- You meet a wizard in downtown Chicago. The wizard tells you he can make you more attractive if you pay him money. When you ask how this process works, the wizard points to a random person on the street. You look at this random stranger. The wizard says, "I will now make them a dollar more attractive." He waves his magic wand. Ostensibly, this person does not change at all; as far as you can tell, nothing is different. But--somehow--this person is suddenly a little more appealing. The tangible difference is invisible to the naked eye, but you can't deny that this person is vaguely sexier. This wizard has a weird rule, though--you can only pay him once. You can't keep giving him money until you're satisfied. You can only pay him one lump sum up front. How much cash do you give the wizard?
- Would you rather be able to fly or become invisible?

2. Have you ever gone through an extended time away from home where you experienced homesickness? What was it like? How did you overcome your longing?
3. Have you ever thought about your desire for the life to come as homesickness? Philip Yancey wrote, "Faith is, in the end, a kind of homesickness—for a home we have never visited but have never stopped longing for." Respond.