

PROMISE KEEPER

Part 3. The Promise of Eternity

- How often do you think we talk/think about the idea of eternity as Christians? Do you think we should talk about it more or less?
- Do you find the idea of eternity comforting or scary?

Read John 14.2-3.

Kate talked about how this passage has echoes of the Jewish wedding traditions where the husband to be would go to his Father's house to build and prepare a room for him and his fiancé, then come back for her.

- Have you ever thought about the promise of eternity being like the promise of engagement and marriage? How does this change the way you view eternity?
- Kate then talked about how Jesus is the groom and he has gone to prepare a place for us then will come and collect us. How do you think this would change our thinking to believe that right now Jesus is preparing our eternal home and one day soon he will come and take us there?
- Jesus has already done some of the preparation for us by going to the cross. This means that we can now freely come into the presence of God. How can we make sure we don't take this for granted?

Kate then talked about how we are the bride and her role in the Jewish society was to wait, prepare and then join her husband. Scripture tells us this preparation looks like:

- '**being aware**' – being spiritually awake and alert to God's Kingdom & our place in it
- '**holding fast**' – not losing hope or giving up, prioritising church & spiritual practices
- '**living in Christ**' – spending regular time with Jesus & pursuing the life of the Spirit

What do these look like in practice in our day to day lives?

How does our engagement with church help us prepare ourselves as part of the Bride of Christ?

BIG IDEA: If Jesus is at work preparing a place for his bride, we the church should be at work preparing ourselves to be fit for him, on the day that he returns.

Finish by praying together, in smaller groups if necessary. Pray for confidence, inspiration and opportunities to share the good news of eternal life in Christ with those we care for. Name them, ask for God's help and commission one another to share this message of love and hope.