

# PILGRIM HOME CHURCH

The smaller groups in our church community are inside our homes where we go deeper, build friendships, and walk out the Christian life with each other.

## HOME CHURCH GUIDE

- + “Breaking the Ice” question (group facilitator)
- + **CHECK-INS:** Introduce, check-in
- + **CARE:** Needs in the group
- + **COMPASSION:** What is the group planning? Are you inviting your neighbours to join in?
- + **GROUP ANNOUNCEMENTS** Church-wide, group-only
- + **DIG IN:** Discuss questions as a group
- + **END AND HOMEWORK:** Final questions, prayer huddles for personal requests. Consider breaking into small groups (huddles) of 2-4, by gender, if large enough.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- + What were your initial thoughts about the Notre Dame fire (there is no “wrong” answer)?
- + Have you lost (lose, stolen, etc.) anything materially that struck you emotionally more or less than you expected?
- + Tell of a time that something physical/material moved you or spoke to you? Give some details.
- + What are your initial thoughts on the importance vs. idolatry of buildings and art (visual, music, movies, etc.)
- + There were multiple Bible passages discussed. Talk through a few of them and why they stuck with or struck you.
- + What is our church’s unwritten theology of body, buildings/spaces, art, and creation? What do you think are the strengths and weaknesses?
- + In your life how are you aware of body, buildings, art, and creation?

## PRAYER REQUESTS:

April 28, 2019

# PILGRIM CHURCH LESSONS IN THE FIRE

## THE FIRE IN NOTRE DAME

### Initial Reactions

One Christian artist, “The burning of Notre Dame Cathedral in France took the world by surprise and while many, including myself, expressed our sadness and grief as we watched the flames engulf one of the world’s architectural marvels, social media is now swimming with judgments and pronouncements that have me wincing and bristling in both offence and frustration. It would appear that the “right” action for an artist like myself would be to toss my artistic gifts in the dumpster and get my [rear] to a third world country so I can do some “real work” for the world...Being an artist in this day and age is tough. Being an artist in the church is even tougher.”

A fire in a well-known art piece of a building, a place created for worship, brings many big and small issues to the surface.

### BIG IDEAS TO EXPLORE IN MINI-SERIES

- + **We are not gnostics - We are material beings as well as spiritual beings.**
- + **The body matters - self**
- + **Matter Matters - rest of Creation**
- + **Art and Faith**
- + **Art and the state of play as a place of empowerment**
- + **Justice and Cultural Symbols**

## THE ANCIENT CLASS OF HERESIES CALLED GNOSTICISM

The material world is bad, the spirit world is good. The material world is under the control of evil, ignorance or nothingness.

The early church was clear that a gnostic view of material/matter is simply not Christian. That space and matter matters. “How does it matter?” then becomes our concern.

## Can the Cathedral Save You? Can the Forest and Mountains and the Wilderness Save You?

These are questions of the role of matter, matter either crafted by humans or humans observing it uncrafted (which also is a type of experience crafting).

**DEFINING MATTER:** Physical substance in general, as distinct from mind and spirit; (in physics) that which occupies space and possesses rest mass, especially as distinct from energy.

Some Scripture

- + Genesis 1:1-2,31; 2:1-2
- + Exodus 35:30-35
- + 1 Kings 6
- + 1Chron 15:16
- + Jeremiah 18:3

## ONE OF THE EARLIEST DEBATES IN THE CHURCH WAS ABOUT THE USE OF IMAGES AND ART IN WORSHIP

- + The Seventh Ecumenical Council which was the Second Council of Nicaea in the Seventh Session (October 13, 787)
  - Many protestants accepted either the first four or all seven.
  - Later, Believer's church Protestants generally did(do) not accept them, except in as much as they align with various later confessions or belief statements. Arts generally do not get brought up in these later confessions.

## IMPORTANCE VS. IDOLATRY OF CREATION/MATTER

Romans 1:20-25

## The body and creation are both blessed and broken, the Neutral Medium.

+ The key is holding these two claims of scripture together.

### + Overemphasis on the blessed

+ John Polkinghorne - Quantum Physicist and believer, tells us that nature illustrates a significant element of chance. "(God) is not the puppet master of men or of matter,"...This element of chance is crucial of the creation is to contain certain desirous qualities. (281).

+ If the world is separate from God in material/stuff - it has to have randomness. Novelty and other forms of life cannot be generated without it.

+ Most importantly, to have beings who are self-determining, loving and morally responsible, this is required. This comes at a cost - elements of risk and unpredictability on a small scale. You CANNOT have absolute order and genuine chance in Creation. Randomness can benefit or harm humans. If the Creator wants a meaningful creature, He chooses to give up a degree of control and guaranteed order.

### + Overemphasis on the Broken

## TAKE AWAYS

### Other Thoughts

<https://divinity.uchicago.edu/sightings/mourning-and-not-mourning-notre-dame>