



## Brian McLaren: Christ as Pioneer: Leading the Way to a Time of Promise: Behind Us? With Us? Ahead of Us?

### Open with Prayer:

God of heaven and earth, we gather in your presence.

Speak to us with grace and truth and pour out your love upon us.

May we come together in this time of learning and sharing as people of your Spirit.

We give you thanks, O God, for every blessing and spiritual gift you have given us.

May we use them to be a source of blessing in your world to the glory of your name. Amen.

### Watch Video pausing for discussion

*You are welcome to pause the video for discussion as you feel appropriate. A suggested stopping point is at timestamp 21:40.*

*The following questions are suggestions for discussion.*

### **This is not as good as it gets**

What does your church's promised time look like? How does that embody a time of peace and promise for everyone?

How does it affect your relationship with God that there are words translated "incorrectly" in scripture that could change what the Bible means?

### **God is in the future**

If God is calling you, to what are you being called?

The Kingdom of God is not like the kingdoms of the earth. In what ways?

When Jesus calls you to the future, to what things do you say, "no thank you, Jesus"?

If sin is the refusal to grow/evolve, the refusal to become more like God, then in what ways is our church sinning?

### **I Am Who I Am**

Jesus came to example for us who God is, so who is the God that Jesus reveals to us? How does this God differ from the in-the-past, dictator, potentate, chess master God?

### **The New Frontier**

What does the Kingdom of God here and now look like for you? What is your church's role in the Kingdom?

What is the mission of your church? How does it reflect Jesus and the Kingdom of God? What action does your church's mission call you to?

What do you hope your church can be?

To be a Christian is to be with Jesus at the frontier of the future. What does this statement mean to you?

If you envision God beckoning to you from the future, how does that change your understanding of God?

### Close with Prayer:

Good and Gracious God, we ask your Spirit of Truth to be with us as we leave this place of study and prayer. May our joys and hopes follow us and our adventuring continue to enlighten us, bringing us closer to you and to one another. Amen.