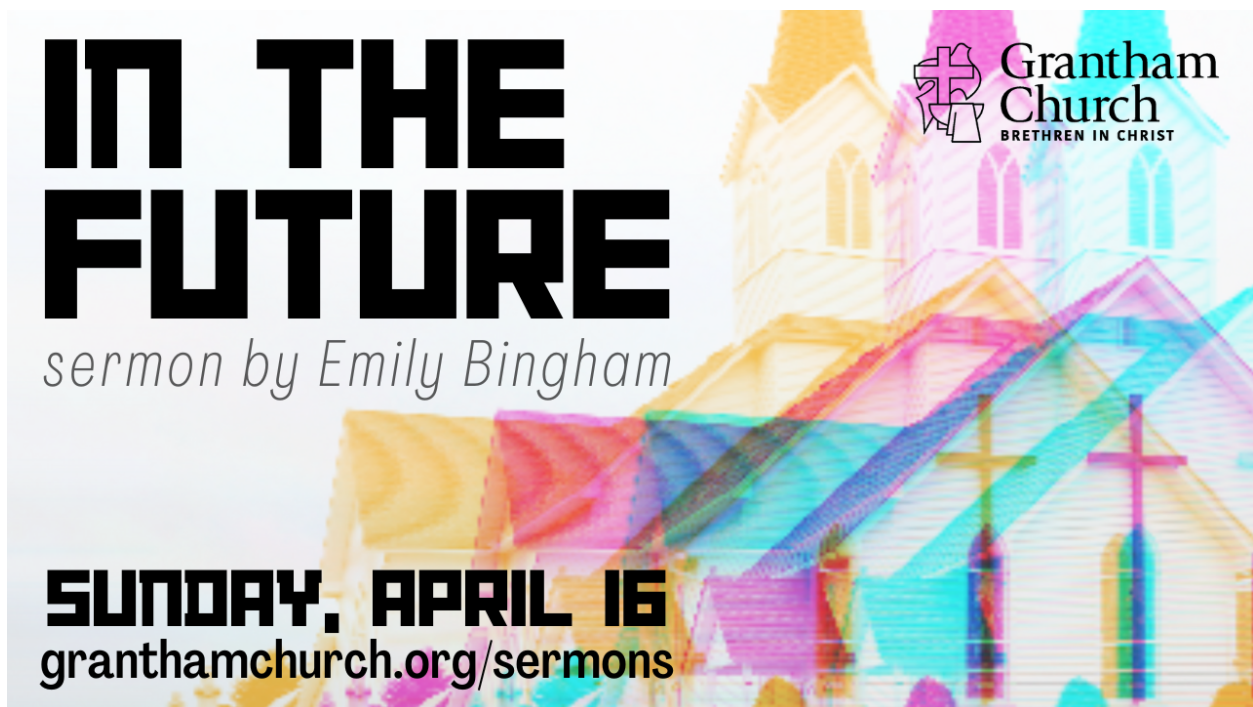


In the Future

Small Group Discussion Questions

Join our congregation for worship in-person or online at 10:30 am each Sunday via our [Grantham Church YouTube Channel](#). If you ever miss a message, the sermons are always posted to the [recent sermons page](#) at our website and at the [Grantham Church Podcast](#) the following day, along with the sermon slides and small group discussion questions under Worship Resources. Thank you for staying connected with us!

Sunday, April 16th 2023



Guest Speaker: Emily Bingham

Sermon Title: In the Future

Scripture Reading: Deuteronomy 6:1-25; Psalm 145:3-13; Matthew 22:34-40

Sermon Focus: It's no secret that the landscape of American religious identity is shifting, and Generation Z is the least religious—and the least Christian—cohort of adults in the nation today. What sense can the church make of these trends? And what hope is there for reaching young people with the good news of the risen Christ? In this message Emily Bingham, Teaching Ministries Pastor and Director of Campus Ministries at Messiah University, explores Deuteronomy 6, highlighting holistic discipleship, incarnational evangelism, cultural engagement, and storytelling as means for faithful ministry to Gen Z.

Thank you for going deeper in conversation with your small group in person or by video call. Use the following questions to help *guide* your small group discussion:

1. Emily Bingham began with a bunch of discouraging or “doom and gloom” headlines about the next generation and the future of the church. Be honest. How much do you think news headlines and scrolling screen media impacts our mood, outlook, and thoughts about our faith and the future of things?
2. Read Psalm 78:4-7 together. What does it look like to “tell the next generation” the story of our faith and why we follow Jesus? What role do parents play? What role does the congregation play? How do you think we are doing and why?
3. Read Deuteronomy 6:1-9 together. Emily said that the church can often expect “the professionals” to pass on the faith to our children and grandchildren. But the evidence is clear. While we all play a role, parents and grandparents are the most influential persons in passing on faith (or not) to the next generation. What kinds of home liturgies and family practices do you have in place to help do this work? Are there areas that you need help with or need to grow in?
4. How do you see parents struggling to raise up disciples in their home today? What are some of the biggest challenges they are facing with their children?
5. How might parents need to stand their ground against secular culture and “impress” the faith on their children whether their kids like it or not? Where might some lines need to be drawn, as we recognize kids are in development? What should be some non-negotiables when it comes to family religious routines and practices (e.g., prayer, Scripture reading, church attendance, etc.)?
6. Emily said that we need to offer the next generation a vision of the good life, because “we want it to go well with them.” How do you think this can shape our approach to telling our own faith stories with our children and young people?
7. How is God speaking to you about Emily’s message? What is the Spirit asking you to do in response to what you heard? Be specific.