

Weekly Study Guide

May 21, 2017

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New Creation

Things I'd like to remember about today's message...

Daily Readings

Monday

Revelation 16:1-16

Thursday

Revelation 18:1-8

Tuesday

Revelation 16:17-21

Friday

Revelation 18:9-20

Wednesday

Revelation 17:1-17

Saturday

Revelation 18:21-24

Regular habits of private Bible reading strengthen our relationship with God and teach us how to follow Jesus. In addition to the thematic exercise above, you can use this guide each week to lead you through relevant sections of the Bible.

Group Discussion Guide

CONNECT

What plans are you looking forward to this summer? (*Groups: please take a few minutes during your time together this week to confirm summer plans. When will you meet? How will you spend your time together - studying, serving, playing, praying? Will you plan to meet regularly again starting in September?*)

LEARN AND APPLY

The Bible begins with a story of God's creation and ends with a story of God's renewed creation. Read Genesis 2:4-17 and Revelation 21:1-5 and 22:1-5. We learned in worship this week that human sin and rebellion will never convince God to give up on the world he made and loves.

- What would it be like if God would have quit on his world? Would you have considered giving up if you were God?
- In what ways have you ever felt that God might give up on you?
- Revelation urges us to turn from sin and live in obedience to God, but it never imagines that those who are saved are perfect! Read Revelation 7:14 and 22:14. God's people are "washed," not spotless. How can God's grace and forgiveness lead us to obedience instead of complacency?

Read Revelation 21:9-27 for John's vision of a new Jerusalem. Read Ezekiel 48:30-35 for an older prophet's similar vision. The details and dimensions are different; helping us to see these aren't the main point. The most important point is that God is no longer separate from his people.

- When do you feel separated from God?
- When do you feel closest to God?
- Jesus was "Immanuel," which means "God with us," and he has promised to be with us by his Spirit even now. This is a promise and also an invitation. What do you do - or can you do - to stay more connected to Jesus now?
- Another important theme in this vision is the healing of the nations (Revelation 21:4 and 22:2). Why do you think people, nations, or races tend to divide themselves against one another? What can Christians do better now to live for this promised future?

Read Revelation 22:17-21. Revelation closes with an invitation to life and an exhortation to read this important prophecy.

- Having spent five weeks reading Revelation as a community, what have been the most important takeaways for you?
- What new faith, hope, thought, or action do you have as a result of reading Revelation together?

PRAY AND APPLY

When we pray the Lord's prayer, we pray for God's Kingdom to come, for God's will to be done on earth as it is in heaven. These closing chapters are one of the Bible's pictures of what that means. Share your prayer needs with one another, and also pray the Lord's prayer together. If you don't know the words, you can find them in Matthew 6:9-13.