



Small Group Study Guide for May 19, 2019

Our Savior Lutheran Church and School

Theme: “Begin with the end in mind.” As Christians living by faith, we are looking forward to the city that God is preparing for us, and the eternal joys of His love and salvation. The Lord gave John a glimpse of heaven in Revelation 21 that we get to share in. These glimpses of heaven remind us that the best is yet to come, and that we can live with a confidence and joy today no matter what we face.

Getting Started:

1. Where have you been given “glimpses of heaven”? What moments in life have made you think – is this what heaven will be like?

2. What are you looking forward to most about heaven?

In the Word: Read Revelation 21:1-7

3. Revelation has several cycles of the end times throughout the vision John received. The corruption of the earth by mankind, the destruction and tribulation, and the final judgment is portrayed several times in vivid ways. But at the end of it all comes this final vision of the “new heavens and the new earth.” Why does God promise to “make everything new!”?

4. What words or phrases are most meaningful or striking to you in this passage?

5. The heavenly, holy city that God presents is called “the new Jerusalem.” How was the earthly Jerusalem regarded in the Old Testament by the people of God, and what connections are there between how they viewed the earthly Jerusalem and how we view the heavenly Jerusalem to come? (cf. **Isaiah 52:9-10, Joel 3:16-20, Psalm 122**)

6. Read **Isaiah 65:17-25**. In some ways, this passage is talking about the return from Exile in Babylon. But in other ways, it is really a vision of the future heavenly Jerusalem that John saw in Revelation 21. What are some of the similarities between these two passages?

7. Revelation 21:4 says that “the old order of things will have passed away.” “Passed away” is often a phrase we use to say someone has died. What are the things of the “old order” that will die, as stated in verse 4? What would you add to the list of things from the “old order” that will pass away when Jesus makes all things new?

8. Read Hebrews 11:1, 8-10, and 13-16, and notice the references to a city. What is the connection between these verses and the vision of John in Revelation 21?

Pulling it all together

9. How does our anticipation of a heavenly Jerusalem – our heavenly home – shape the way we live on earth today?

10. The Bible describes heaven more often as a “country,” “city” “new heavens and new earth.” This is not just floating around in puffy clouds for eternity! How is the Bible’s description of heaven more “earthy” than how it is often viewed by general society?

11. In Sunday Morning Bible Class, we spent some time talking about how a Christian Funeral can boldly profess our faith in Jesus and the hope we have of our heavenly home. What are some of the elements that you want at your funeral that would reflect your faith, and point people to the hope we have in Christ? (Note: the form Preparing for a Christian Funeral is available in the church lobby on the wall racks that can serve as a planning guide for your service. These can be turned into the church office for safe keeping until needed.)

Prayer: Ask the Lord to help us live each day by faith, and to look forward with hope and joy the eternal home that Jesus is preparing for us. Pray that people might catch many “glimpses of heaven” through the ministries of our church and school, as each of us reflect our heavenly hope in our daily lives.

Note: This is the last Small Group Study Guide of the season! Have a blessed summer! Study Guides will resume after Labor Day. Other small group resources are available in the Board Room Resource Center.