



Small Group Study Guide for November 5, 2023

Our Savior Lutheran Church and School

Theme: The Best Day. Our imaginations are gifts from God. To celebrate All Saints Day, we use our imaginations to think of heavenly things and have the same mind as God. When we read from the book of Revelation, both faith and our imaginations are needed. John's vivid revelation of the new heavens and the new earth calls us to believe in something we cannot see. God's Word drives our imaginations and reminds us that this heaven is a real place we are going. John was given this revelation to give the churches under persecution at the time hope in Christ. In the same way, we can have hope in God's promise that the best is yet to come!

Getting Started: (sharing with one another)

1. What event have you been to that had the most people in attendance that you've ever witnessed?
2. As we celebrate All Saints Day, what comes to mind when you think about heaven? How can God's Word guide our imaginations?

In the Word: Read Revelation 7:9-17

3. In this vivid revelation that John gives us, what words or images are most impactful to you?
4. On Palm Sunday, Jesus enters Jerusalem and we hear of the crowds waving palm branches and shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!" Hosanna means, "save/deliver us!" How is this different from what those waving palm branches are shouting in verse 10?
5. In verse 4, John *hears* the number of the sealed (144,000 sealed from every tribe of the sons of Israel), but in verse 9, John turns to look and *sees* a great multitude that no one could number from every nation, from all tribes, and peoples, and languages. What comfort does this bring for us as Gentile people?

6. Who are the people dressed in white from John's interaction in verses 13-14, and how have they made their robes white?

7. How is verse 17 a pure image of heaven—the best day? What kind of hope do these words from John's revelation bring into your life?

Putting it all Together (what do we believe or do as disciples?)

8. Knowing that John sees “a great multitude that no one could number from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages” is a great relief to us as Christians. What does this encouragement also call us to do? What mission is implied here that Jesus speaks to his disciples in the Great Commission?

9. This joyful picture of heaven awaits those who have walked in faith and have come out of great tribulation. List a few models of faith that come to mind when you hear these words:

10. Revelation 7 gives us hope. This week, how can you show the hope that you have in Jesus?

Prayer: Gracious God, we give You thanks for giving us hope for the best day. As the saints below, we look forward to being reunited with the saints above, loved ones that we miss. Most of all, we look forward to bringing worship and praise to You. Continue to give us Your Spirit and Your Word to guide both our faith and our imaginations to give us hope for each day. Come quickly, Lord Jesus. Amen.