

HOW TO USE THIS GROUP GUIDE

WARM-UP (10-15 MINS)

- Pick one or more of the warm-up questions and have all the group members give a response to the question(s).
- Make sure everybody gets a chance to speak. Don't let talkative people dominate the conversation, but graciously welcome everybody to participate.

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TRUTH (10-15 MIN)

- Read the scriptures and paragraphs in this section to clearly communicate... what the Bible says about the week's topic.
- **Discussion Questions:** These questions get people thinking about the practical implications of the truth being discussed. Have one or two people give an answer, but don't spend too much time on these questions.
Truth (10-15 min)

GRACE (5 MINS)

- Read the grace scripture and section which shows how the passage points to Jesus Christ and God's grace.
- This section is really important, because it shows that life change begins with the grace of God and not our own efforts.

CHANGE (10-15 MINS)

- Have everyone give an answer to each of the change questions.
- Take a good amount of time here. Really encourage people to think through how they can practically put truth into action.

PRAYER (10-15 MINS)

- Read through the prayer focus points and have one or two people in the group pray.
- Make sure not to rush through prayer. The things we want God to change in our lives will often happen through prayer.

This Is ~~Not~~ The End

GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

WEEK 12



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WARM-UP

- ▶ What are some highs and lows from your week?
- ▶ If you were an inventor, what's a problem you'd want to solve with some amazing invention?
- ▶ What's an experience you've had that you wish would've never ended?

TRUTH

And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.
(Revelation 21:2)

Great stories have great endings. The story of Revelation has the best ending of all. When King Jesus deals with evil, the future he ushers in for his people will be breathtaking. The Apostle Paul said that the glory of what's to come made the pain he experienced in this world seem "light and momentary." Yes, the world we live in now is characterized by struggle and darkness. If we set our hope in this life, we'll be disappointed.

But the world to come has a hope that is unshakable for those who follow Jesus.

The Fullness of God's Presence

Read Revelation 21:2-4

If our experience of God in this age is like a tube television, our future experience of him will be in high definition. We can experience the presence of God now in a measure, but he will come to “dwell” with his people in the New Jerusalem.

Because humans were created to be in relationship with God – think the Garden of Eden – separation from him causes a thirst (v. 6). Our thirst will never be fully quenched in this age, but the age to come will be a quenching of thirst that never ... ends because we will be with the One we were created for.

- ▶ In what ways have you experienced this “thirst” of not being fully with God?

The Wonder of God's City

Read Revelation 21:9-14, 22-27

Amazing architecture can be beautiful, but the New Jerusalem is nothing less than awe-inspiring. John is straining the edges of his vocabulary with similes to communicate what he's seeing. Not only is it beautiful, but it's filled with culture. All the nations of the world will bring their best creative work into it to honor God. It's a wonderful thought that one day all work in the world will be done to glorify God. No longer will greed, selfishness, or power be the driving force behind why people do what they do. We will all create and organize and build for God's glory.

- ▶ What do you think it means to work for God's glory?

GRACE

The Promise of His Coming

Read Revelation 22:12-13

As we sit in the aftermath of this dizzying vision, the voice of Jesus comes through. He tells us just how certain we ought to be that this promised world will become a reality. He personally guarantees it. He reminds us that he is the root of David and the bright morning star, the One in whom all the Old Testament prophecies will be fulfilled. These same prophecies told of his death and resurrection. He made good on his word then; he will make good on his word to bring the New Jerusalem.

CHANGE

John tells us clearly how this vision of the New Jerusalem should impact our lives now. He tells us to continue to wash our robes (v. 14) – another way of saying to do what Jesus has commanded. We should also say pray that Jesus would come (v. 17). In other words we should fix our hope in what is to come.

- ▶ What are the things in this present age you can tend to put your hope in?
- ▶ In what ways is Jesus asking you to “wash your robes” in your life?
- ▶ What is it about the New Jerusalem that gives you hope?

PRAYER

- ▶ Pray for the coming of Jesus to this world.
- ▶ Pray for the empowering of the Holy Spirit to remain faithful to Jesus.



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