

# REVELATION

ALL • THINGS • NEW

## UPSTATE GROUP LEADER GUIDE

Week 13 - April 1-7 - *Revelation 21-22*

### LEADER NOTES

HE IS RISEN! HE IS RISEN INDEED! On this Easter Sunday, we come to the end of our study on the book of Revelation. What an exciting and fruitful journey it has been; make sure to celebrate with your group all that God has done over the last few months. As we gather with friends and family to celebrate our Savior's victory over the grave, we also rejoice with expectant hearts the day when Christ will return and make all things new.

While there are certainly some dark and disturbing things revealed to us in Revelation, as we flip the page to the last two chapters of the book, we are confronted with inexpressible joy, beauty, and hope. Christ's resurrection ensures our own resurrection! This cornerstone-truth of our faith should cause both your group and your life to be radically transformed. As group leaders, emphasize the connection and relationship between the resurrection of Christ, the victory of Christ, and the coming of the New Jerusalem.

Please remember to ask your groups about gospel connections and conversations had in the previous week. Also, please be sure to emphasize inviting those around us to our Easter services. You can complete the form [here](#).

# COMMUNITY

*Open the group by caring for one another and allowing a moment for everyone to have a place to belong.*

Start the group by taking prayer requests, finding out about people's week, and praying for one another.

## **Ice-Breakers:**

- *What is your favorite Easter candy?*
- *If we are being honest, how do you think you would have responded if you had been present on resurrection morning?*

# SCRIPTURE

*Take this time to study the Bible together. Remember, the goal is not just to convey information, but to help people in your group learn to read the Bible for themselves.*

## **THE POINT**

**The resurrection is our past and future hope.**

### **Revelation 21:1-8**

#### **The New Heaven and the New Earth**

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. 2 And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place[a] of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people,[b] and God himself will be with them as their God.[c] 4 He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."

5 And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." 6 And he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment. 7 The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son.

8 But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death.”

**Revelation 22:20**

He who testifies to these things says, “Surely I am coming soon.” Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), Revelation 21:1-8, 22:20.

# STUDY NOTES

Revelation 21-22 is not only the culmination of the book itself, but the culmination of God's redeeming and saving work. Furthermore, these two chapters reveal to us the ultimate hope we have as believers in the Lord Jesus. Christ's triumph over the grave on that first Easter morning was a glimpse in the eschatological future—it pointed to a day when all God's people will rise and dwell with God in perfect harmony. It pointed to the moment John shows us in Revelation 21-22.

As you lead your group in discussion be sure everyone recognizes this:

## **1) God will once again dwell with His people.**

The punishment for sin is separation from God. Those who have placed faith in the crucified, risen, and victorious King Jesus are made blameless and washed from all their sin. We are now able to stand in the presence of God free from the shame, guilt, and punishment of sin. When the events described in Revelation 21-22 finally come to pass, our relationship with God will be as it was with Adam and Eve in the garden.

## **2) God will wipe away death, crying, and pain.**

The curses of sin have caused all creation to suffer. This is perhaps the one thing in the book of Revelation we have no trouble relating to; we know all too well the sorrows of this life. Yet, this is the exact reason this passage stirs hope in our hearts. We know that God is making all things new, and that the pain of life we now feel is not eternal.

Notice, after chapter 21, the book concludes with a declaration which all creation should heed. Christ is coming soon; Jesus pleads and warns, "Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the tree of life..." The message is two-fold: believer, do not lose heart or grow weary, your salvation draws near. Sinner, repent and believe as the Ancient of Days will soon make all things new.

This is the Revelation of Jesus Christ.

For more resources on this passage click the resources link [here](#).

# QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

- What is the most encouraging thing to you about Revelation 21-22?
- How does Revelation 21:4 strengthen and encourage us in our gospel witness and mission individually and collectively?
- What does this passage say about true, eternal, and abundant life?
- Because Christ is making all things new, how then should we relate to the struggles of life and of this fleeting world?
- Concluding his prophecy, John prays with earnest desire that Christ will come soon. Why should we long for Christ's return?
- Revelation 21:3 says, "...Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God." Why is this so theologically important?

## COMMISSION

*As you wrap up your group, it is imperative that everyone knows we go into the world on mission for Jesus. Use this time to focus everyone to live on mission as you leave.*

We know Jesus is making all things new, that we have eternal life through Him, and that God will once again dwell with His people. How does this prompt us to a deeper gospel witness?

Who in your life needs to know Jesus?