

2022 Community Groups

WEEKLY GUIDE

March 13 - Community Guide

This week marks the end of our study of Revelation. For the past 17 weeks, Pastor Aaron has been guiding us through this amazing book and helped us to see the overarching theme of the Revelation of Jesus. If you missed any of these powerful messages, you could always find them on the Hillside Website. We hope and pray that this study has helped you understand the mission Jesus has in giving every person an opportunity to believe in faith so that their names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life!

Community Prayer:

Lord, we invite you to guide our time together as we finish this study, dig into your word and share with each other. More than anything, we ask that you would be with us and would help us to see you more clearly through this time of study. All these things we ask In Jesus' name, Amen

Opening Questions:

1. In what ways do you think about heaven differently now than you did before this study began?
2. What about heaven are you most looking forward to?

Exploration:

Throughout this study, we have been reminded over and over to keep our focus on who Jesus is and his purpose on earth and in heaven. As this sermon series concludes, we will focus on three important habits or responses to the things we have learned in Revelation:

- Keep God's Words
- Worship God
- Repent

When we intentionally engage in these three habits, we have access to the power we need to see God do a work of transformation in our lives.

Revelation 22:6-7

The word "soon" in verse 7 might be better translated as "suddenly." We are being reminded to live with expectation as we wait and watch and pay attention to all that is going on in the world. Jesus is coming back soon!

3. Have you ever had a surprise that you wish you had known about before it happened? If so, share that with the group.



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Habit #1

- Keep God's Words

It is not enough to know **about** God's words. We must continue to grow in our understanding of God's words. And further still, we need to be obedient to the things we understand in God's word. There are great promises for those who keep God's word:

Revelation 1: 3 Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart (keep) what is written in it because the time is near.

Revelation 3: 3 Remember, therefore, what you have received and heard; hold it fast (keep), and repent. But if you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what time I will come to you.

Revelation 14: 12 This calls for patient endurance on the part of the people of God who keep his commands and remain faithful to Jesus.

4. What are some rules or laws that people know but rarely keep?
5. What do you imagine the traffic in Southern California would be like if everyone drove the speed limit?
6. Have you ever avoided a speeding ticket that you know you deserved?

Revelation 22:8-9

John sees these amazing things and immediately falls to worship at the feet of the angel who is showing him all the wonders of heaven. But the angel corrects John and says, "do not do that."

"It is easier to indulge in ecstasies than to engage in obedience."
Eugene Peterson

We have to be careful not to get distracted from the point of what Revelation is all about. The book is all about the Revelation of Jesus. There is no other way to enter into the New Heaven and the New Earth that John talks about without putting our faith and trust in Jesus.

7. Describe what it means to put your faith and trust in Jesus. How do you live this out in your daily life?
8. What are some of the areas of your life where trusting Jesus seems easy and natural?



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9. What are some of the areas of your life where trusting Jesus is difficult?

Habit #2

- Worship God

Worship is so much more than singing songs; it is the acts, words, attitudes, and thoughts of adoration and thankfulness to God that we give in our daily life. The word "worship" can be translated - to kiss the hand, to fall on the knees. These words describe the posture of our hearts toward God.

10. Share about a time when you felt deeply connected to God; what were you doing?

So how do we worship?

- Through what we say
- Through what we think about
- Through what we read
- Through our everyday lives

Revelation 22:10-11

The words here are not sealed because they are now fulfilled. The revealing and the fulfillment of the words of prophecies and promises of God are to be shared. These words are to be preached, and they are to be lived out as a witness for Jesus.

At the end of verse 10, we are reminded that "the time is near." Jesus will come back suddenly, and there won't be time to make a decision or change after he comes...the time is now!

11. Is there someone you know who has not yet put their faith in Jesus? If so, name them and take some time to pray together that they would make the decision to follow Jesus.
12. Tell about a time you shared with someone about your relationship with Jesus. Is this something that comes naturally to you, or do you find it difficult?

Revelation 22:12-13

There is a sense of urgency in this final chapter. These words fill us with confidence and enable us to live in hopeful expectation for the return of Jesus. Being with Jesus is our ultimate reward; it will put everything we



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have experienced in this life into an eternal perspective, and we will finally experience all God has intended for us from the beginning.

13. What is one thing you hope to experience in heaven?

Revelation 22:16

People sometimes get interested in the Book of Revelation because it arouses their curiosity about how the world will end rather than about the truth of Jesus. However, we must be careful not to fall into the trap of predicting the future and instead put our energies into living a life of worship.

14. What are some of the desires you currently have that you long to see God fulfill?

Revelation 22:17-21

In these final words of Revelation, we see the invitation for all to "Come."

We don't know when Jesus is coming back. Scripture is clear that no one knows the hour or the day of his return, and we should probably be careful with our bold predictions and attempts to articulate anything that indicates otherwise.

15. Knowing that the invitation is for all to "come" to Jesus, what does it look like to intentionally share that invitation with people?

16. What are some of the ways you have seen this done poorly?

17. What are some of the ways you have seen this done well?

Habit #3

- Repent

The word "repent" is a word of hope. It is most simply the act of changing your mind and aligning yourself with what God says. When we repent before God, we open our hearts to receive His transforming power to enact real and lasting change.

18. Have you ever repented about something and then experienced a season of growth? If so, share about that experience.

19. What would you say to someone stuck in destructive patterns that might encourage them to open their hearts to Jesus?



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The Takeaway:

There are three important habits that the message in Revelation invites us to develop:

Keep His Words

- Posture = Open Hands
- Prayer = God, I trust you

Worship God

- Posture = Bow or kneel
- Prayer = God, I worship you

Repent

- Posture = Lifted Hands
- Prayer = God, forgive me

Prayer Requests

