



GROWTH GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS Fall Quarter - Lesson 9 - Week of November 3, 2024

Lesson: ALL THINGS MADE NEW

Bible Verses: Revelation 20:1-15; Revelation 21:1-8; Psalm 51:12; Jeremiah 29:10-14; Joel 2:25-26; John 3:16; Acts 3:19-21; 2 Corinthians 5:16-17; Hebrews 12:22-24; Isaiah 43:18-19; Revelation 22:3

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

1. Is there anything you are afraid you won't accomplish?
2. What is your favorite memory as an adult?

DISCUSSION

Then I saw "a new heaven and a new earth," for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea." - Revelation 21:1 (NIV)

Reflection: Most of the major events in life include built-in anticipation. Waiting is part of births, growing up, graduations, and weddings. Very few things of importance come instantly! Think of a time when you anticipated an upcoming event. What was the waiting like? How did you handle it?

Situation: John watches as an angel descends from heaven, binds Satan, and the thousand-year reign of Christ begins on earth (Revelation 20:1-3). Following this, Satan is "set free for a short time" (verse 3) and gathers an army for one last stand against God. But it is a futile attempt, for God instantly sends fire down from heaven to consume his forces. Satan is consigned to the lake of fire, from which he will never escape, and the final judgment of humankind takes place (Revelation 20:4-15). It will then be time for something completely new; as God reveals, He has prepared a special place for those who belong to him. It's greater than anything we could ever imagine and all God's children are welcome there.

Observation: Read Revelation 21:1-8.

1. What is significant about the new city being described as a bride?
2. What does the voice from heaven say about this new city?
3. How would you describe the future citizens of the new city?
4. In what ways will our relationship with God be different in the new city?

Inspiration: The most hopeful words of Revelation 21 are those of God's resolve in verse five: "I am making everything new!"

It is hard to see things grow old. Some of the neighborhoods where we grew up have grown old. The places that were there 30 years ago are mostly gone. We are so glad that God can make things new! We can't make things new but God can. "He restores my soul," wrote the shepherd (Psalm 23:3 NKJV). He does not reform; He restores. He does not camouflage the old; He restores and makes things new. The Master Builder will pull out the original plan and restore the vigor, the energy, the hope, and the soul. There will no longer be stress, worry, and despair in the new heaven.

Don't you want to be part of the new things that God will create? When you see how this weary world has become stooped with its low standards and then read of a home where everything is made new, doesn't that make you want to go there? What would you give in exchange for a home like that? Would you rather have a few possessions on earth than eternal possessions in heaven? Would you choose a life enslaved to passion over a life of freedom? Jesus said in Matthew 5:12, "Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven...." God knows the beauty of heaven and He wants you to see it.

1. What things have you been sad to see grow old on this earth?
2. What are you most looking forward to seeing or experiencing in heaven?
3. What are some words that describe what you think it will be like to spend eternity with God?
4. What tends to cause you to take your eyes off your wonderful future with God?
5. What are some of your responsibilities until the new heaven and the new earth come?

Life Lessons: We have difficulty thinking about heaven without unconsciously smuggling earthbound thinking into it. All the elements of this life that make us tired, confused, bored, stressed, and overwhelmed will be gone. Just because we can't easily imagine ourselves in a heavenly setting doesn't mean God can't change us to fit it perfectly! What will we look like when we get to heaven? We can trust that He will take care of the details in ways that will surprise and delight us.

While we have life in our bodies, we should spend time preparing to meet God. We can give our full attention to opportunities God places in our lives to pass on the good news to others, hoping they will be citizens of God's eternal kingdom.

Devotion: Father, we look forward to that new city where we will eternally dwell with you. We hold to the promise that there will be no more sorrow or pain and that all things will be made new. Keep our eyes focused on these things to remain faithful to you.

Journaling: How can you prepare now for the new heaven to come?

Prayer Focus: God, help us prepare ourselves to live with you!