

The Next Christmas | Revelation 21:1-8

Advent: November 27, 2022

My Story Questions

These questions/activities help the group know one another and transition to deeper discussion. Choose one. OR.... You might start each meeting with one person sharing highlights of their story for 5-8 minutes.

- 1) Do you use an advent calendar or any kind of advent materials to prepare for Christmas?
- 2) What is the prettiest city you have ever visited?

Study Questions

These are meant for personal preparation and group discussion. Use all or pick a few to discuss.

Read Revelation 21:1-8

1) For all those who have new life in Christ, our future is a resurrected life on a resurrected earth. Does this challenge your view of heaven?

2) How does this truth influence how you live?

3) In what area of your life does this make the most difference?

4) Where does my view of His return need adjusting?

Read 2 Peter 3

5) Peter compares the coming new heavens and earth we see in Revelation to creation, judgment, and recreation in Genesis. What emotions does this passage bring to the surface?

6) How does the hope presented in living forever as a resurrected person on a resurrected earth overcome the fear of what lies between now and that then?

7) Where is God asking you to trade fear for hope?"

Read 1 Thessalonians 4-5:11

8) Paul writes of the coming resurrection as a way to encourage and motivate each other as we follow Jesus together. How often do you talk of the resurrection?

9) Through Revelation we have seen the impending judgment of Jesus as a reason to worship. How is that reflected here?

Read 1 Corinthians 15:1-28

10) Our future bodily resurrection is reason alone to be thankful today! Paul argues that without a future resurrection hope, life is pointless. How does this stretch your thinking?

11) How can knowing the hope of the future resurrection impact how you live today?

Read Matthew 1:18-25

12) God has always intended to dwell with humanity. How does the birth of Jesus reflect this truth?

13) How does celebrating the first coming of Jesus inspire you to look toward the second coming?

Responding to Jesus

Offer these questions for personal reflection before your group prayer time.

- 1) Lord, "Where are you calling me to a changed perspective of Heaven?"
- 2) Lord, "How does my view of Christmas need adjusting?"