

2021 Community Groups

WEEKLY GUIDE

December 5

Pastor Aaron began his Christmas sermon series “Joyful and Triumphant” as he helps guide us through more of the book of Revelation. While it may seem strange to focus on this particular book during the Christmas season, we need to remember that the purpose of this book is the revelation of Jesus to the world. Even though the book of Revelation is filled with unfamiliar and even strange imagery, it is important to keep in mind that ultimately, it is all meant to remind us that God is Sovereign and that God’s plans will come to pass. Jesus is the center of God’s plan to reconcile all things.

Community Prayer:

Lord Almighty, as we enter into this Christmas season, we give you thanks and praise for Your gift of Jesus to the world. We are so grateful that even in difficult times, we can be assured that you are working to bring about your grand design. We ask that you would open our hearts and our minds to receive this beautiful gift in a fresh, new way. In Jesus’ name. Amen

Opening Questions

1. What are you most looking forward to this Christmas?
2. Who are the 5 people you believe God wants you to invite to one of the Christmas Eve gatherings?
 - a. If you do not have your five yet, would you commit to pray for God to bring those names to you and share with the group next week?

There are so many things in the world that are trying to get our attention;

“Attention is the beginning of devotion.” *Mary Oliver*

3. What do you find yourself focusing on most often throughout the day? What has your attention?

EXPLORATION

Read the scriptures below. (Have someone read aloud from their bible)

If you look back at Revelation 3:19, we see a picture of a closed door where Jesus was on the outside knocking. You will notice that Chapter 4 begins with a door standing open. This open door was an invitation to John to see what was happening in the heavenly realms at that very moment. We can think of it as a “snapshot” into that moment in time.



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Revelation 4:1-11

The throne is the dominant image here, everything described in verses 2 through 11 is focused on the throne and the one who sits on the throne. All the different creatures described in this image are actively giving honor to the One on the throne.

4. How would you describe worship?
 - a. Through what form of worship do you feel most connected to God?
5. Has there ever been a time in your life when you were so overwhelmed by the goodness of God that your automatic response was one of worship? If so, share about that experience.

Revelation 5:1-5

6. Why do you think John is so upset that he openly weeps? (vs. 4)

The scroll contains the full account of what God in his sovereign will has determined as the destiny of the world. It contains the plans of restoration and bringing God's original purpose of creation to fulfillment! The fact that there is a scroll shows that there is order behind the chaos, there is a plan and it is held firmly in the hand of God Almighty.

Revelation 5:6-8

The imagery in verse 5 is of a Lion on the throne, but in verse 6, when John looks, he doesn't see a Lion, he sees a Lamb. The Lion is the symbol of ultimate power and royalty, the Lamb symbolizes gentleness, vulnerability and sacrifice.

7. Why do you think this is important for us to recognize Jesus not only as a Lion, but also as a Lamb?

"Instead of a ferocious lion that hurts others, the Messiah is a sacrificial Lamb that takes on himself the hurts of others." Bruce Metzger



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Revelation 5: 9-14

Here we see an explosion of worship and praise!

- Inner circle (4 living creatures, vs.9-10)
- Outer circle (angelic beings, vs.12)
- Whole Cosmos (all of creation, vs.13)

Have you ever wondered if your prayers make a difference? Read vs. 8 again.

8. How might knowing, that every prayer you pray is being added to this epic scene, influence your prayer life?

THE TAKEAWAY

- At the center of reality is One who suffers: we are never alone in suffering
- At the center of reality is costly grace: the Lamb takes our place
- We work **from** victory not towards it: the major battle has already been won on the cross
- The way to the fullness of life: the way of the Lamb

If you want to give your full devotion to Jesus, it starts with giving him your full attention.

Parents' Corner

"Pay attention!"

"Weren't you listening to me?"

All of us as parents have those moments when we ask for, demand, or simply try to keep our kids' attention. It's humbling to think that God wants our attention too, but there are long stretches of time when we forget to shift our attention to Him. As parents we not only need to give God our attention, but also help our kids develop the habit of regularly turning their attention to God.

How can we help our Kids make it a habit to turn their attention to God? Read the following scriptures and come up with some ideas of how we can coach our kids in this...

Turning attention to God through:

(Prayer / dealing with anxiety) Philippians 4:6, Colossians 3:15



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(Being watchful in prayer of what God is doing) Colossians 4:2

(Listening to Him through His Word/wisdom) Prov. 7:1-3

(Being thankful for who God is and what He is doing / providing)
Colossians 3:17

Prayer Requests
