

## Small Group Guide

### HOW DO WE WORSHIP GOD IN HIS WRATH?

The Church at Brook Hills,

Dr. David Platt

September 30, 2012

Revelation 15—16

This guide is a tool to help you lead your group into spiritual transformation. Use it as a resource to train your group into potential disciple-makers and lead your group in discovering, owning, and applying the truths of God's Word. There may be aspects you do not want to use and there may be instances where you just want to focus on a particular point or truth. Some questions may bring out emotions and cause people to dwell on an aspect of their relationship with God. Your role is to help facilitate this encounter with God in His Word with His Body, not just to complete the guide. Use this as a flexible teaching tool not a rigid group task list.

### **Relate . . .**

*Begin your group time by engaging in relational conversations and prayer that may include the following elements:*

***Welcome**—a simple, brief time to greet one another (especially new friends), enjoy refreshments, and make announcements.*

***Review**—a time to review the truths discussed last week and report on how members have had success or frustrations in applying those truths during the week. (The leader will want to provide encouragement and shepherding during this time.) Periodically, the leader will also want to review the gospel and allow members to share reports about opportunities they've had to share the gospel. Occasionally, the leader will want to review the vision for the group and discuss ways to accomplish that vision better.*

***Prayer**—a time of general prayer with the whole group praying for struggles regarding the application of truths, for those with whom the group is sharing the gospel, and for understanding of today's truths.*

### **Reflect . . .**

*Use the following summary and questions to review this week's message and reflect on its implications for our lives. (As a training tool, leaders might want to have various members summarize the teachings in their own words each week sharing how they think the Scripture applied to the original hearers and how the principles apply to us today.)*

#### **Message Outline**

#### **HOW DO WE WORSHIP GOD IN HIS WRATH?**

Revelation 15-16

#### **A Quick Review...**

- The book of Revelation is a series of apocalyptic visions filled with prophetic pronouncements written as a congregational letter.
- These visions include various symbols and numbers (which often lead to various interpretations).
- These visions are arranged cyclically, not chronologically.
  - Seven letters, seals, trumpets, visions, bowls...

#### **A Critical Question...**

**How do we worship God in His wrath?**

**Start with a high view of God.**

- God is sovereign over all.
- God is feared by all.
- God is glorified above all.

## Small Group Guide

### HOW DO WE WORSHIP GOD IN HIS WRATH?

The Church at Brook Hills,

Dr. David Platt

September 30, 2012

Revelation 15—16

---

- God is holy in all His attributes.
- God is righteous in all His ways.
- God is loving toward all His creation.
- The clear conclusion:
  - God is infinitely worthy of eternal worship.

#### Move to a humble view of man.

- We have denounced the sovereignty of God.
- We have disregarded the fear of God.
- We have defamed the glory of God.
- We have dishonored the holiness of God.
- We have despised the righteousness of God.
- We have denied the love of God.
- The clear conclusion...
  - We are infinitely deserving of God's eternal wrath.

#### Land on the hope of the gospel.

- What has God done?
  - At the cross, God has expressed His wrath toward sin.
  - At the cross, God has endured His wrath against sin.
  - At the cross, God has enabled salvation for sinners.
- What shall we do?
  - Those who are not followers of Christ...
    - Repent and receive the mercy of God before it is too late.
  - Those who are followers of Christ...
    - Walk in purity.
    - Witness with urgency.
    - Worship with sincerity.
      - God's love without wrath would be indifferent.
      - God's justice without wrath would be ineffective.
      - God's love, justice, and wrath together are indescribable.

### Message Summary

*Revelation 15—16 contains symbolic bowls of wrath poured out by a holy, just God on unbelieving humanity for their sins of persecution and idolatry. In the midst of the strong language of torment and judgment are two songs of praise to God—worship—which challenge us to ask the question, “How do we worship God in His wrath?” The only way to answer that question rightly is to start in the right place: with a high view of God and a humble view of humanity. Revelation 15—16 contain beautiful descriptions of God's sovereignty, glory, holiness, righteousness, and love, all of which make Him utterly worthy of worship. Humanity, on the other hand, has in reality sinned in every conceivable way, shunning the truth of God and turning away from Him for our own ways. Simply put, we deserve God's wrath.*

*This right view of God and humanity leads to a startling conclusion: we can land on the hope of the gospel. Because of Christ's completed work on the cross, repentant Christ-followers receive the mercy of God and are not left to endure the wrath due to them. Instead, by His grace revealed in Revelation, we are exhorted to walk in purity, witness with urgency, and worship with sincerity.*

### Group Discussion

Use the following questions to help review the application of God's Word to our Head (What does God want me to know?), to our Heart (What does God want me to desire/value?), and to our Hands (What does God want me to do?).

## Small Group Guide

### HOW DO WE WORSHIP GOD IN HIS WRATH?

*The Church at Brook Hills,*

*Dr. David Platt*

*September 30, 2012*

*Revelation 15—16*

---

- What does it mean to “start with a high view of God”? How does a high view of God change the way you worship Him?
- Why are people so easily tempted not to have a high view of God? What do these variety of temptations look like?
- As you consider God’s character revealed through the seven bowls of wrath, which character trait has given you the greatest sense of peace lately? How have you valued His character more deeply as you’ve walked through trials?
- What does it mean to move to a humble view of humanity? How does a humble view of yourself and other people change the way you worship God?
- In what ways do you view humanity more highly than you ought? How do you view God more lowly than you ought?
- Why are people so easily tempted to have a high view of humanity instead of God? What does reversing the two produce - and deserve?
- Have you accepted the fact that apart from God’s grace, you are infinitely deserving of God’s eternal wrath? Why is it important to remember that fact daily? How does realizing that reality change the way you value Christ and share the gospel?
- Do you severely underestimate the severity of your own sin—and the One against whom you sin? How does the answer to that question drive you to a deeper hunger for God’s Word?
- Why is the cross the only source of hope for humanity? What are we to do in response to the cross?
- In sharing the gospel, how would you articulate the way God’s love, justice, and wrath are all important parts of His character?
- Pastor David challenged us to let God’s wrath motivate holiness in our lives, not because we fear His wrath, but because we feel his hatred of sin. Once we put our faith in Christ, it’s easy to forget about His wrath since we understand we are no longer under it. But why is that a dangerous practice? In what specific ways should we allow God’s wrath to motivate us? In other words, because God’s just wrath is real, what does God want us to do?

### **Respond . . .**

*Encourage your group to break out into smaller, same-gender groups where they will respond to the truths of today’s study. These groups will share with one another based on the following questions and then close in prayer:*

- What are some of the main truths that God wants you to know from this study?
- How do your thoughts need to adjust to align with these truths?
- According to the truths from this study, what does God want you to desire/value?
- How do your values need to change to align with His values?
- What actions does God want you to take according to the truths of this study?
- What is an action that you can start to implement today or tomorrow?
- What is going to be the most difficult aspect of this study to apply personally?

Close this time by praying for each other, specifically for strength to apply these truths, for personal needs, for the lost people with whom you are seeking to share the gospel, and for our weekly prayer focus as a church.

### **Weekly Prayer Focus . . . (from our worship guide)**

- *Church: Pray that our eyes will be opened to the fierce wrath of the One True God against sin. Pray that God would grant mercy and grace to those listening, that many*

## Small Group Guide

### HOW DO WE WORSHIP GOD IN HIS WRATH?

The Church at Brook Hills,

Dr. David Platt

September 30, 2012

Revelation 15—16

---

*might repent and turn to Him. Pray that our hearts would be filled with worship for the great justice of our God.*

- *Local: This week we are praying for the outreach efforts and ministry coordinated through the Samford English Language Learner Institute and Friendship Partners program as they seek to connect international students to host families in Birmingham. This is a great tool to build relationships with internationals living in our community. We are also praying for Alan Murphy, North Shelby Baptist Church.*
- *Global: This week we are praying for Brook Hills Long-Termers Josip and Kelly Debeljuh serving in Croatia. Originally from Croatia, Josip felt called to go and make disciples back in his home country. He does this primarily by holding basketball clinics with men in the surrounding communities. Through sports he is able to engage young men, share the gospel, and disciple those who believe in Christ. Kelly engages local women by teaching art classes and supporting Josip. Join us this week as we pray for the Debeljuhs and their family. This week we are also praying for our Short-Term teams serving in India and North Africa.*