

Small Group Guide THE HALLELUJAH CHORUS

The Church at Brook Hills

Dr. David Platt

October 14, 2012

Revelation 19

This guide is a tool to help you lead your group into spiritual transformation. Use it as a resource to 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 through 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 revisit 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 in our lives:

Sermon Outline

THE HALLELUJAH CHORUS Revelation 19

Man-centered worldliness will ultimately be overcome by God-centered worship.

- God orchestrates all of history to display His glory.
- God ordains all of His people to enjoy His glory.
- So bow before the splendor of God the Father.
 - He is victorious.
 - He is glorious.
 - He is omnipotent.
 - He is just.
 - He is eternal.
 - He is mighty.
 - He is sovereign.
- And behold the supremacy of Christ the Son.
 - He is faithful and true.
 - He is the righteous Judge.
 - He is the Messianic warrior.
 - He sees all, knows all, and judges all.
 - There are many crowns on His head.
 - There is much mystery to His name.

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- He conquers God's enemies.
- He reveals God's Word.
- He ends the history of this world.
- He rules the nations of this world.
- He brings God's wrath upon this world.
 - Upon sinful men and women.
 - Upon Satanic agents and ambassadors.
- He is King of kings.
- He is Lord of lords.
- Let's revere Him.
- Let's rejoice in Him.
- Let's be ready for His coming.
 - Let's walk by faith in Him.
 - Let's work by grace from Him.
- For we will reign with Him forever.

Message Summary

After studying the seven seals, seven trumpets, seven angels with seven plagues, and seven bowls of God's wrath, Revelation 19 records a much-welcomed chorus of hallelujahs sung by the heavenly multitudes in response to Jesus Christ victoriously riding on a white horse. The message of this chapter is that God-centered worship will ultimately overcome human-centered worldliness. God, in orchestrating all of history to display His glory and all of His people to enjoy His glory, deserves our worship. Revelation 19 reveals God as heaven sees Him, which in turn compels us to bow before Him. The descriptions of Christ the Son reveal that He is ultimately and completely supreme. We have an eternal King who is coming in glory to triumph over our enemies and to bring us into His Kingdom. By seeing His purpose and character, we are compelled to revere Him, to rejoice in Him, and to make ourselves ready for His return with the promise that we will one day reign with Him forever.

Discuss

Use the following questions to review the Head (What does God want me to know?), Heart (What does God want me to value?), and Hands (What does God want me to do?) aspects of the message.

- Why do believers need to be constantly mindful that God has determined the story's end—that He orchestrates all of history to display His glory? What can happen when Christians fail to keep this truth in the forefront of their minds?
- How is your enjoyment of God reflected in what you value?
- What kinds of things prevent you from fully enjoying the glory of God? What happens when God's people fail to enjoy His glory? How does His Word always lead you to overcome that failure and to enjoy Him as you should?
- What does it mean to see God as heaven sees Him? How does Revelation 19 help you to do so?
- As anti-Christian culture seduces believers into spiritual idolatry, what role does worship play in rejecting the seduction? What is involved in worshiping God rightly?
- How should the fact that God cannot turn a deaf ear to injustice and sin affect your evangelism? The way you serve others?
- Pastor David noted that grasping God's sovereignty and might enables us to keep worshipping Him in the midst of sin and suffering. When have you been able to keep worshipping despite terrible circumstances? How did God use His Word and His people to confirm His character to you? How did that experience cause you to value His character, His Word, and fellow believers more deeply?
- Consider that there are many crowns or diadems on Christ's head opposed to the limited number symbolically included on the dragon and beast earlier in Revelation (12:3, 13:1). What false authority do you see Satan trying to claim in the world around you? What truths do you need to remember so you do not attribute to Satan the authority that only belongs to Jesus?

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- The blood on Jesus' blood-dipped robe in Revelation 19:13 is likely that of those whom He has conquered. As you consider that image of Jesus, reflect on what Pastor David said, "There is no room for casual worship of this King." Why does this bloody image of Christ as a blood-spattered Warrior demand our worship? How does it change your values? What should you do in response?
- Read Revelation 19:15 and reflect on the simplicity of that verse. What hope does it offer that Christ strikes down the nations with such ease?
- How do you need to prepare for the coming of Christ? In what ways is He calling you to walk by faith and to work by His grace?
- When you consider that God has a purpose in Babylon, the beast, and false prophets—to prepare His bride—how does that change the way you read Revelation? Why is that truth so important for believers to grasp?

Respond . . .

Encourage your group to break out into smaller, same-gender groups where they will respond to the truths of the message. 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 the message?
- How do your thoughts need to adjust to align with these truths?
- According to the truths from the message, what does God want you to 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 message?
- What is an action that you can start to implement today or tomorrow?

Close this time by praying for each other, specifically for strength in the application of these truths and for the lost people with whom you are seeking to share the gospel.

Weekly Prayer Focus . . . (from the worship guide)

- **Church:** *Pray that God would fill our hearts with hope in His final victory over death and the Enemy. Pray that God would give us refreshing waves of joy at the thought of being brought into His Kingdom for eternity. Pray that God would be merciful to those gathered with us who do not believe in Christ, that they would see and savor His excellence and be brought to Him.*
- **Local:** *This week we are praying for the ministry of Hearts In Hands. Frank Burder III and his wife, Donna, who are members at Brook Hills, formed Hearts in Hands in 2008. They focus on serving the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of families being ministered to by hospice; and also serve widows and others in desperate need. We are also praying this week for Jerome Bell, South Roebuck Community Church.*
- **Global:** *This week we are praying for Brook Hills' partner, Compassion International, and their Change the Story tour, which takes participants through the lives of three children living in poverty. Please join us as we pray for people who will walk through*

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the experience to have a better understanding of our role as the church in releasing people from poverty in Jesus' name. This week we are also praying for our Short-Term teams serving in North Africa.