

Small Group Guide

THE END OF THE BEGINNING

The Church at Brook Hills,

Dr. David Platt

November 4, 2012

Revelation 22:6-21

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

THE END OF THE BEGINNING

Revelation 22:6-21

**The book of Revelation is not intended to promote hopeless speculation about the future.
The book of Revelation is intended to fuel hopeful obedience in the present.**

- See the world in all its deception.
 - The beast: Do not put your hope in government.
 - The false prophet: Do not put your hope in religion.
 - The prostitute: Do not put your hope in material affluence and social acceptance.
- See the Christ in all His glory.
 - He is fully human and fully divine.
 - He is the fulfillment of prophecy and the final high priest.
 - He is infinitely old and infinitely wise.
 - He sees all, knows all, and reigns over all.
 - His purity has no error and His power knows no equal.
 - His voice resounds with authority and His face radiates with light.
 - He had the first word in creation, and He will have the last word in creation.
 - He was dead for a time, but He is alive for all time.

Small Group Guide

THE END OF THE BEGINNING

The Church at Brook Hills,

Dr. David Platt

November 4, 2012

Revelation 22:6-21

- He is the conquering Lion and the slaughtered Lamb.
- His worth is undisputed, His work is unforgettable, and His worship is universal.
- His birth declared the death of the ancient serpent, His death defanged the adversary, and His resurrection demolished every accusation against the church.
- He is faithful and true.
- He is the righteous Judge and Messianic warrior.
- Many crowns adorn His head, and much mystery surrounds His name.
- He conquers God's enemies and He reveals God's Word.
- He rules the nations of this world and He brings God's wrath upon this world.
- His grace is free and His joy is full.
- He is the Savior who came once, and He is the Sovereign who is coming back soon.
- He is King of kings and Lord of lords.
- No one and nothing compares to Him.
- See the church in all her beauty.
 - We are His body.
 - We are His bride.
- See your life in proper perspective.
 - Fight against sin.
 - Resist compromise.
 - Refuse complacency.
 - God promises blessing for the faithful.
 - God promises judgment for those who fall away.
 - Endure amidst suffering.
 - Do not be surprised by it.
 - Do not be overcome in it.
 - Jesus is present with you.
 - Jesus possesses and protects you.
 - Jesus has a purpose for you.
 - Proclaim the gospel of Christ.
 - To everyone you know.
 - To the ends of the earth.
 - Hasten the coming of Christ.
 - God, give us unwavering holiness in this world...
 - With unshakeable hope in the world to come.

Message Summary

Revelation concludes with repeated statements of Christ's impending return. However, the book of Revelation is not intended to promote helpless speculation about the future but to fuel hopeful obedience in the present. It encourages believers to see the world's deceptions, to place hope in Christ alone, and to live with unwavering holiness in this world. Believers can live with confidence in the present because of Christ. He is the theme of Revelation (Rev. 1:1), and the descriptions of Christ throughout this book should drive us to trust, love, and fear Him more. Revelation also depicts the church as Christ's treasure – the bride for which He sacrificed His life. In light of Him and His return, we as His people should see our lives in proper perspective and fight against sin, endure amidst suffering, and proclaim the gospel of Christ. All the while, we give our lives working for His return and join the Apostle John in praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

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?).

- How would you summarize the message of the book of Revelation? What was John's intent in writing this epistle to its original readers? How is this book's message applicable to readers today?

Small Group Guide

THE END OF THE BEGINNING

The Church at Brook Hills,

Dr. David Platt

November 4, 2012

Revelation 22:6-21

- How has this study of Revelation fueled hopeful obedience in your own life? Why should the study of Revelation motivate believers towards greater faithfulness?
- Read 2 Peter 3:1-18. How should the truths of this passage affect our desires and actions in the present?
- Because this world cannot satisfy or save us, we should not hope in government, religion, material affluence, social acceptance, or anything else that is of this world. Where do you place your hope? What is the evidence of this in your life? By your words and your example, what are you teaching your families or those whom you are discipling to hope in?
- How do you practically hope in Christ? How can you nurture a greater affection for Christ than for things of this world?
- This sermon lists twenty bullet point descriptions of Christ that are gleaned from Revelation. Select a couple of these truths about Christ and discuss the significance of them. Why is it important that He is all of these things? How should these truths about Christ affect our affection for Him and obedience to Him? Take time to pray, praising Him for who He is and what He has accomplished.
- Revelation 22 reiterates four times that Christ will return (22: 7, 10, 12, 20). How are you living now in light of His imminent return? How does His impending return affect how you pray? How you share and interact with the lost? How you spend your money and time? What you value? How you treat people? How you study and memorize Scripture?
- Revelation views the church through the eyes of her Groom. Do you have the same attitude and commitment to the church as Christ? Why or why not? Why is commitment to the local church important? How are you engaged in this local body of believers?
- How are you fighting against sin in your life? What are areas in which you are tempted to compromise? In what ways are you complacent in your relationship with God? How can you fight against complacency in you life?
- Discuss the “blessed” statements in Revelation (Rev. 1:3; 22:7, 14). What do these beatitudes teach us?
- What does the book of Revelation teach us about suffering? How does your view of God affect your understanding of suffering and how you face suffering? Why does God permit suffering?
- Suffering will come. How are you preparing now to suffer well for the sake of Christ? How does Revelation encourage believers to persevere in suffering? How can you endure well and keep your eyes on Christ?
- Who in your normal rhythm of life needs to know Christ as Lord and Savior? How can you encourage, share, and invest in them this week? Pray as a small group for the lost people you all encounter on a regular basis.
- How are you part of the advancement of the gospel *to the nations*?
- Read 2 Peter 3:9-12. Peter states that the reason Christ has not yet return is because God desires more people to repent. How can we be part of hastening His return? Do you want Him to come quickly? Why or why not?
- Why should the truths of Revelation, this sermon, and this passage (Rev. 22:6-21) lead us to greater holiness?
- What hope do we have regarding the world to come? In what ways are you placing your hope in this present world? Take time to repent. In what ways are you placing your hope in the world to come?
- Pray for each other to fight against sin, to endure amidst suffering, and to proclaim the gospel of Christ. Pray for the hastening of God’s return - that we as His people will be ready and that many will turn to Him in repentance.

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?

Small Group Guide

THE END OF THE BEGINNING

The Church at Brook Hills,

Dr. David Platt

November 4, 2012

Revelation 22:6-21

- 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 personally apply?

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: Praise God for His Word and specifically for the book of Revelation. Thank Him for helping us in our understanding of this book. Pray for God's help in living in obedience to all we have studied and learned. Pray we will all live in such a way that eagerly anticipates Jesus' return. Pray for Jesus' promised return to serve as a constant motivation to make Him known among all peoples of the world. Daily, pray, "Come, Lord Jesus!"*
- *Local: This week we are praying for the ministry of Brother Bryan Mission. This mission is an interdenominational, transitional ministry, providing economically, emotionally, and spiritually impoverished men of the Birmingham area with a transitional home and programs to help them learn to live responsible, productive, and independent lives and to become contributing members of the Church, the family, and the community. We are also praying this week for Dr. Daven Watkins, First Baptist Church of Pleasant Grove.*
- *Global: This week we are praying for Brook Hills member Organization, Dan Moran Ministries. Dan and Debbie Moran are members of The Church at Brook Hills and run Dan Moran Ministries. DMM serves the poor in Honduras and leads teams to serve in the community. DMM has also come alongside the local church in San Pedro Sula to encourage and strengthen it for multiplication in the area. Many church plants have been formed as a result of God's grace in this community. For more information on DMM please visit danmoran.org. This week we are also praying for our Short-Term teams serving in India and Southeast Asia.*