

# LIGHTHOUSE GROUP CURRICULUM

Revelation 21:1-8

## LEADER'S STUDY

### God who makes all things new:

The message of the gospel makes it abundantly clear that salvation and eternal life with Him are found only through Jesus. This grace is free to those who, humble themselves, believe and put their faith in Him. It can not be earned through any work of our own. Mark 2:17 Jesus said I have come to call not those who think they are righteous but those who know they are sinners. Jesus is the one who makes us right with God and the one who makes us new. It has been God's plan from the beginning that He would be our God and we would be His people. When we put our faith in Jesus, that happens. In addition to making us new, it was always God's plan to make all things new. A new heaven and a new earth, one that is perfect and unstained by sin and its effects. Given our limited understanding and the condition of the world we know today, it is hard to imagine but God is going to create a new world for His people. One that is flooded with His grace, where they can know the joy of being directly in His presence forever. One where we can enjoy all that he has created. Just knowing this gives the believer a sense of awe and joy. It also brings with it a sense of compassion for all who are lost and a sense of urgency to tell them about the good news that is only found in Jesus. The more we understand the beauty of the gospel and the undeserved grace of God, the more we are transformed. Our hearts and our priorities are changed. Rather than hearts of stone God has given us hearts of flesh that that reflect His heart. We care about the things that He cares about and the people that He died for.

As you read and prepare for this week ask yourself; What has Jesus done for me? Do I trust fully in His grace, or do I still believe that there are things I do that earn God's favor? What might a new heaven and a new earth look like? How is the Holy spirit changing my heart and my priorities? Who do I know that needs to hear this good news? How is God revealing Himself and his character through this scripture? How is God changing my thinking? How do I view others, and myself, differently because of the gospel? Be willing to share areas that He is calling you to "follow Him" and make clear "I" statements about how you are going to align with Him.

Some helpful scripture: Isaiah 65:17-25, 2 Cor 4:17-18, Hebrew 12:25-29, 2 Peter 3:11-15  
What other places in scripture speak this same truth?

How is God calling you to think and to live differently? How does this change your perspective today? How is God calling you to respond based on this scripture? Spend some time reading this whole chapter and meditating on it as you prepare for your meeting. Be willing to share this with your group and invite them to join you in sharing how God is asking them to respond to His word.

## PREPARING BEFORE GROUP

**PURPOSE:** Life transformation through the Holy Spirit. He uses scripture and prayer to renew our minds and transform our lives!

**PRAY:** Pray for the people in your groups by name. Spend time asking the Holy Spirit to help you lead well as you meditate on key passages and seek to know God's heart.

### **PLAN:**

Take some time this week and think about how to pray with your groups. Sometimes this comes easy for a group and sometimes it seems like a challenge to engage in prayer together. Prayer is our declaration of faith and dependence on God. It breaks down barriers to the gospel and it aligns us with God's character.

Because of God's grace, we can pray bold prayers. We have access to God that comes only to His children through Jesus. As you pray together, build each other up with the truth of God's grace. Celebrate who He is and what He has done. Bring your requests to Him knowing that He is a father who takes great joy in providing for the needs of His children.

You might consider using shorter sentence prayers to help everyone engage. You might also consider splitting up into groups or praying together as men or women.

## **INTENTIONAL BIBLE READING**

READ Revelation 21:1-8

And meditate on it.

Read in the ESV or similar word-for-word translation.

Read it again in the NLT to get a thought-for-thought perspective. (The New Living Translation is particularly helpful with this passage)

Consider reading the whole chapter or even the whole letter before your meeting to help you understand the context.

Try to summarize the passage in your own words.

## **POTENTIAL STUDY QUESTIONS**

These are just questions you might ask to help your group discussion. Don't feel like you need to answer all of these as a group

**What is significant, surprising or confusing from these verses?**

**What seems to be the main point of these verses?**

**How does this portion of scripture point to Jesus and the gospel?**

**What did you discover or learn about God and His character from this passage?**

**What parts of this passage can you relate to?**

**Look at one or two key words and define them really clearly, then look at them in context with that definition. Does this change your understanding?**

**Why did God bring me to this scripture today?**

**What parts of this passage are challenging to your current way of thinking?**

## **APPLICATION QUESTIONS**

**How is God calling you to obey, based on this passage?**

**or**

**What is your "I will" statement?**

(Encourage everyone to steer clear of "we" or "us" or "Christians" statements)

**With whom are you going to share what you have learned?**

(This is a critical part of growth that is often overlooked. If we can share it with someone else it means we really understand it, it cements it in our own minds, it makes us accountable to the truth and it blesses the one who hears it. Rom 10:17)

**Based on this passage, what can we pray about and how should we pray?**