

Share prayer requests with the small group. Ask someone to take notes and share the requests with group members after the meeting.



Sermon Study

Victory Realized
Revelation 20:11-15

vision

Eastview
Christian
Church is a
fearless church
of Christ
followers whose
ridiculous love
and dangerous
witness are
irresistible.



*Eastview Christian Church small groups provide the optimal environment for the life change Jesus Christ intends for every person. Our groups typically have 8-14 people who **GATHER** together (Hebrews 10:24-25), **GROW** to be more Christ-like (Romans 12:1-2; 1 Peter 1:14-16), **GIVE** of themselves in various ways (1 Corinthians 12:12-27; Ephesians 4:11-16), and **GO** on to impact the world around them (Matthew 28:19).*

Gather (your group getting to know each other)

Have you ever been in a courtroom? What were those circumstances? Were you part of the jury? A witness? A defendant? A spectator? Share that experience and what you may have learned about our system of judgment.

Go
(your group on mission)

This passage really doesn't feel like a "victory" scene since it primarily discusses the fate of the defeated, but it is a stark reminder that the race will come to an end. We don't run infinitely. There is a finish line. And so, to continue the metaphor, there are "winners" and "losers." As believers, we're already in this Book of Life. We will have victory in Jesus. This week, look for ways to communicate this message to the nonbelievers in your sphere of influence.

Grow (your group growing as Christ-followers)

Key Scripture

"Then another book was opened, which is the book of life."
(Rev. 20:12, ESV)

Key Word Study

The Greek word *hades* is the New Testament equivalent of the Hebrew word *sheol* and can be understood simply as a place for the dead. This is not "hell" as we understand it (the final resting place for the unsaved), but more like "the grave." So v. 13 may make more sense if you read it as "...Death and the Grave gave up the dead who were in them..." Similarly, v. 14 may make more sense if you understand that what is being destroyed forever are the existence of Death and the Grave.

Discussion

1. Have someone begin the discussion time by leading the group in prayer, then read Revelation 20:11-15 aloud.
2. This powerful passage describes the final judgment. Before we get too far, what feelings, reactions, hopes, or fears do you have about this judgment, either for yourself or others?
3. Read John 5:22-29. Who is seated on the great white throne? Why then, is it not enough to simply believe there is a God? What does this teach us about the phrase, "all roads lead to heaven?"
4. We Christians understand Jesus as Lord and Savior. How do you feel about Him as the Final Judge?

5. Verse 11 also literally describes the end of the world. It might be surprising that the total destruction of all creation (the heavens and the earth fled away) is mentioned quickly in half of one verse! But this event is foreshadowed throughout the New Testament. Read Hebrews 1:10-12, 1 Corinthians 7:31, 2 Corinthians 4:18, 1 John 2:17, and Matthew 24:35 in your group. Why do you think it is necessary that the "old creation" be destroyed? (Consider using Rev. 21:4-5 for reference)

6. Now we have this dramatic scene. The whole universe disappears. And there in the middle of the nothingness between the end of this universe and the creation of the next one is this final judgment. Who is being judged here? Or better yet, who will not have to face this great white throne judgment? (Consider John 5:24, John 3:18, and Romans 8:1).

7. As saved believers in Jesus, the judgment we face will be the Judgment Seat of Christ, which Paul mentions in 2 Corinthians 5:10 and 1 Corinthians 3:10-15. Read those passages in your group. What do you think it means to "do things in the body," and why is it important?

8. Back to Revelation 20:12-15, John MacArthur writes, "So this is that event, when all the ungodly of all human history are raised and brought before the final tribunal to be sentenced to eternal hell." How do you feel about these people? Should we be pleased because they're getting what they deserve? Should we pity them? Should we ourselves feel guilt that we couldn't persuade them to Jesus? In general, share your feelings about the reality of hell.

9. Many people have deep resistance to the concept of "eternal judgment" for nonbelievers. We live in a system where the "punishment fits the crime," and so we give out different punishments for different crimes. A small crime yields a small punishment, where a large crime yields a large punishment. How is God's justice system different? And how would you respond to someone who says that's "not fair?"

Give
(your group serving each other)

This week, discuss with your group what it could look like to do meaningful works in the body of Christ; the sort of works that won't "burn up" when tested on that Day (1 Cor. 3:13-15). Perhaps this could motivate you to become more active servants toward each other and the Church.