

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



Sermon Study

August 7, 2016

Images of Christ - Baby Born
Revelation 12:1-17

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)

1. How is the Christmas story generally told? Acted out in children's plays?

2. How often do you consider the spiritual war that is raging all around us?

Go
(your group on mission)

Pray for someone who needs to hear the message that Jesus is the only way to salvation. Make contact with that person and pray for an open door to present the Gospel.

Grow (your group growing as Christ-followers)

Key Scripture

“And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, ‘Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down...’” (Rev. 12:10a ESV)

Key Word Study

“Salvation” here (*hě sőtěria*) refers to the victory as in Revelation 7:10 and Revelation 19:1. Salvation belongs to God alone and to all who put their trust in the blood of the Lamb.

Discussion

1. Have someone begin the discussion time by leading the group in prayer, then read Revelation 12:1-17 aloud.

Many Christians see the book of Revelation as a sort of road map to the future rather than a message of encouragement and warning to first century believers going through intense persecution. Revelation 12 actually takes readers back to the beginning of the Gospel story, back to Bethlehem where it all started. It’s not intended to give us a literal description of a historical event, but to pull back the curtain to see what spiritual forces were at work that night so long ago.

2. Revelation gives us truth in images. Now that you know this chapter is a remix of the Christmas story, who do you think is the “woman?” The “dragon?” The “male child?” Why is the woman clothed with the sun and who does the sun represent (see Psalm 84:11)?

3. What is the significance of the woman’s crown? What does the number 12 refer to?

4. According to vs. 5, what happens to the woman’s child? What event does this refer to?

5. Vs. 7-9 inform us of a mighty spiritual battle taking place in heaven before the very throne of God. The angel Michael, as the defender of God’s people and the conqueror of their enemies, is an angelic representation of Christ Himself. Verse 8 reports the outcome of this spiritual warfare: the dragon did not prevail; neither did he and his hosts have any place in heaven any more. In Zechariah 3:1 we read of Satan standing in the presence of God, serving as a spiritual “district attorney” bringing charges against God’s people. What significance does vs. 11 have in light of these accusations from Satan? What comfort can this have for believers today?

6. According to vs. 13-14, what happens to the woman? How would you interpret these things? As we think about the nation of Israel flying “into the wilderness” (v. 14), we might think of this as a lonely and desolate place. Read Deuteronomy 1:31. What comfort can God’s chosen people, the Jews, have even to this day?

7. As you consider this all-out war against the male child (Jesus Christ), think of events in the New Testament where Satan was on the attack to destroy Him.

Give
(your group serving each other)

In light of spiritual battles that rage around us, how can you pray for your group? What piece of spiritual armor do you personally have to put on? (See Ephesians 6:10-20)