

SEVEN RIVERS

— CHURCH —

Sermon Discussion Guide

Revelation: For unto Us a Child Is Born

Revelation 12

December 5 & 6, 2020

Part 1: Pray

The primary goal for our Life Group meetings is to experience Jesus in our midst in his presence and power. We want him to be at work by His Spirit ministering to us and through us to one another so that people are cared for and encouraged to lead God-pleasing lives. Ask God to reveal his truth in this passage to transform you through your discussion time.

Part 2: Read the Text

Read the passage from the sermon. Keep a focus on key words, repeated phrases or major themes.

Part 3: Reflect on the Sermon

Introduction

1. Ray asked if you know the story behind the Christmas story. What did he mean?
2. Ray quoted Fleming Rutledge who wrote: *“Advent is designed to show that the meaning of Christmas is diminished to the vanishing point if we are not willing to take a fearless inventory of the darkness.”* Where do you see darkness in the world? in your life?

A Child Is Born: The Exposition (The Characters / The Great War / The Aftermath)

1. Who do the main characters in the story represent (the woman, the child, the dragon)?
NOTE: There may be more than one right answer for each character.
2. Where does the Great War depicted here play out? Who are the combatants?

3. What is the outcome of the war? What are the consequences for the parties involved?

A Child Is Born: The Application *(We Have an Adversary / a Savior / a Work to Do)*

1. Jesus, philosophers throughout history, cultures around the world all believe in the demonic. They know the Devil is real. Why does much of the Western world deny his existence or live as if he's not real? What difference does it make?
2. Ray stated that we have three great enemies: the world, the flesh, and the Devil. How would you describe each of these adversaries? How are they intertwined in opposition to God?
3. Are you wary of how these enemies are seeking to destroy your life and the lives of all you hold dear? What kind of precautions should you be taking?
4. What did Jesus come to do according to 1 John 3:8 and Hebrews 2:14-15?
5. How is this aspect of Jesus' work tied to the work we are to do? (Revelation 12:11)
6. John 1:4-5 states: "In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." Where has God met you in the darkness of this year? How have you seen Christ's light overcome it?

Part 4: Summarize the Message

How would you summarize the sermon to someone who has never heard it? What are your two or three key takeaways from the message and your discussion? How does this sermon change your perspective on God? Your own heart? And/or, how to follow Jesus?