

SEVEN RIVERS

— CHURCH —

Sermon Discussion Guide

The Book of Revelation: The Bride

Revelation 21:9-22:5

December 19 & 20, 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. For those who are married or have taken part in a wedding, reflect on the preparation leading up to the big day. Any memorable moments? Describe the bride's preparation and presentation? How did she look? Why does she traditionally wear a white dress? Why does everyone rise when she enters and face her as she walks down the aisle?

The Bride: A Beautiful People

1. Watch this [clip from 'Nanny McPhee'](#). Even though the movie was among the cheesiest of 2006, this scene still moves me. Pay attention to the dialogue. What parallels do you see to the end of Revelation?
2. Ray asked, "How does the 'whore' of Hosea and Ezekiel 16 become a beautiful bride?" (See Ephesians 5:25-33.)

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The Bride: A Secure People

1. When John turns to see the Bride, what he sees is the holy city Jerusalem, with high walls and twelve gates guarded by angels. The city was impervious to attack. Contrast that with any of the major cities in the world today.
2. Is there anything that you are frightened or anxious about? (Finances, health, loved ones who have hit hard times, state of marriage, etc.) How does the security you have in Jesus affect these things?
3. Ray mentioned singing 'Jesus, Loves Me' during a basketball game that freed him of his anxiety and freed him to perform his best. Have you even sung this children's song to yourself? How did (or could) this affect you?

The Bride: A Healed People

1. The glory and honor of the nations will be brought into the city (21:26), where "every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages" will stand before the throne and before the Lamb (7:9). The leaves of the tree of life will be "for the healing of the nations" (22:2). How can we be actively involved in seeing a foretaste of this become a reality now?

The Bride: A Satisfied People

1. John saw no temple in the new Jerusalem, since the entire city is the Most Holy Place (the place of God's presence). If the city represents the Bride which in turn is a picture of the people of God, what does this say about us now? (See John 14:23.)
2. Ray stated that "In heaven you will get everything your heart desires." What did he mean by that? What does your heart desire?

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3. Ray pointed out that when you have someone's face, you have their attention, their favor. Revelation 22:4 says that in the new heaven and new earth we "will see his face." What does it mean to have the face and favor of God?

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?