

LEAD SHEET

REVELATION - WK 11 THE LAST WORDS OF JESUS DECEMBER 11, 2016

THIS MONTH'S FAITH SKILL:

PERSONALIZE SCRIPTURE

If you want to know God better, memorize and apply His Word!

GETTING STARTED

Today, as we conclude our study of Revelation, let's reflect on our past lessons of Revelation.

General Discussion:

- What is something you've learned about Revelation you didn't know? (*Allow for discussion.*)
- What still confuses you about Revelation? (*Allow for discussion.*)
- What is the main point of Revelation? (*Jesus has won. Be faithful and you win too.*)

There is so much to mine from the deep symbolism of this great book. We have only scratched the surface. There is so much we could talk about, but we must finish up today. We do that in Revelation's final chapter. Revelation 22.

DIGGING IN

Read Revelation 22:1-5

Discussion Questions:

1. What images sound familiar to you in this passage? (*Water of life, tree of life, etc.*)
2. Where else in the Bible do we read about a Tree of Life? (*Genesis, in the Garden of Eden.*)
3. Where is God in this picture? (*In the middle of it, present, etc.*)
4. What does not exist in this setting, according to verse 3? (*There will be no curse.*)

As we end Revelation—and the Bible—we end where we started. In the beginning, there was a Garden. There were people. There was God.

Read Genesis 2:8-10

Discussion Questions:

1. What do these two settings (the Garden of Eden and the heavenly picture) have in common? (*A tree, a tree that bears fruit, a river, no curse, God is present, etc.*)

God is restoring what He set out to have—redeemed people, redeemed creation, and a presence with His people that is personal and eternal. We will serve Him, reign with Him, and wear our names on our foreheads, which symbolizes to whom we belong.

Read Revelation 22:6-11

Discussion Questions:

1. According to this passage, who is blessed? (*The one who keeps the prophecy written in the scroll.*)
2. When John tries to worship the angel, what does the angel say? (*Worship God! I'm just a fellow servant.*)
3. What do you think verse 11 means? (*Allow for discussion.*)

Read Revelation 22:12-21

Discussion Questions:

1. According to these verses, who is blessed? (*Those who have washed their robes.*)
2. What does that mean? (*Those who have been purified by Jesus' sacrifice.*)
3. How does Jesus identify Himself? (*He's the Root and Offspring of David, the bright Morning Star, etc.*)
4. Who is invited to "Come! "? (*Those who hear these words, the thirsty, anyone who wishes to take the free gift of the water of life.*)

In the last chapter of Revelation, we have reflections upon the beginning (the Garden City, etc.). We also have the Great Commission as those who have heard the invitation ("Come!") are also invited to say, "Come!"

Discussion Questions (Continued)

5. What are the last words of Jesus? ("Yes, I am coming soon.")
6. What is John's response? ("Amen. Come Lord Jesus.")
7. Do you think you can anticipate Jesus' return with the same confidence? (*Invite students to share why or why not.*)

MAKING IT REAL

That's it; we made it from Revelation 1:1 to 22:21!

However, what does it mean to you?

General Discussion:

- How does the message of Christ's victory change the way you think about your own life? (*It gives us hope, confidence, peace, etc.*)

- How does the encouragement to persevere through trials change the way you think about difficulty in life? (*We suffer for a purpose; we are victorious through that suffering.*)
- How does the hope of Heaven change the way you think about this world? (*The troubles of today pale in comparison, we can't wait to live with no curse, etc.*)
- How do you feel knowing that until Christ's promise is completely fulfilled and we are eternally with Him we will endure trouble? (*Allow for discussion.*)

Read Revelation 22:12 (again)

Discussion Questions:

1. What is it that this verse reminds us to do?
(*To be prepared for Jesus' return.*)
2. Why do we need to be prepared. What will happen? Do you think this is a promise or a warning? (*He will "give to each person according to what they have done. It's both.*)
3. Why is it foolish to align yourself with the kingdom of this world? (*Because the kingdom of this world is temporary, and its rulers are pawns of Satan who are doomed to destruction.*)
4. How often do you make a decision that aligns you with the side that has already lost? (*Allow for discussion.*)
5. How often do you make a decision that aligns you with the victor? (*Allow for discussion.*)

Our decisions influence our lives on this earth in a big way, but the urgency of the first-century Church to live faithfully as they awaited freedom from their oppression is an urgency from which we must learn.

We started today by talking about some famous last words. However, we want to end this lesson and this study by challenging you to think about your last words and what you want them to be. It is when we live with our last words ready to fall from our lips that we're likely to live our best.

***Have students take some time to think about it and then share what they hope some of their last words might be.*

CLOSING PRAYER

Pray that your students will live out their lives with urgency as they await the coming Kingdom to be fully realized.