

Dec 1, 2024 - "The Beginning and the End"

Rev. 21:1-7, 22-27 (Leader's Guide)

1. What do you think of the book of Revelation? Have you had good or bad experiences with it?

Allow time for sharing.

2. How have you imagined the afterlife? How does that fit, or not fit, with what this passage from Revelation depicts?

Allow time for sharing.

3. The phrase "new heaven and new earth" indicates that we won't just "go to heaven" when we die, but that there will be a new creation to interact with. How does this notion land with you?

How people view the afterlife can be very personal – especially if they have lost someone and have a particular view of their loved one's existence. Be gentle and allow for different opinions here.

4. The holy city, Jerusalem, has a number of characteristics mentioned in Revelation 21. What are some of them?

It is dressed as a bride. God dwells in it and is present to his people. There is no more death or pain. There is no temple. There is no need for sun or moon. There are open gates. There are rulers and nations who come into it. No one who doesn't love the Lamb is found there.

5. How does our vocation as rulers and priests in God's creation fit into this image of new creation?

We won't be sitting by in an endless worship service with nothing to do but sing – we have a purpose, a God-given purpose that fits our unique selves with our gifts and abilities – our vocation – to rule over and tend all of creation for the glory of God.

6. What are the three most common commands in the book of Revelation? How does one lead to the other?

*Look! Don't be afraid. Repent.
By gazing at Jesus, the slain lamb who has conquered, we can trust that all*

shall be well, and we can see the things in our lives that don't fit into the new creation, and turn away from them in repentance.