



Sermon-based Small Group Guide

Week of November 29 *For What Are We Hoping?*

Scripture

Revelation 22:1-5, 16-21

Sermon Summary

In Revelation, John writes his vision of that which is to come. He writes in exile and in the midst of persecution against the church. In the moment, it's a harrowing time. Certainly, there are elements of the vision of Revelation that speak to the terror of the time and the forces of darkness aligned against the church. However, over and over again, and especially as the vision draws to a conclusion, what is revealed to John is the certainty of hope that God's plan for redemption will be realized, and realized through the coming together of heaven and earth, God and the Lamb of God entering into our world fully and completely and forever.

Our hope and our longing for God to make things right, for that which is broken to be healed will come. Our desired hope for darkness to be eliminated, our thirst to be quenched, and for us to be claimed by God is the future given to us by God.

For all of us who long for God to make things right, for our hope of joy and peace and God's presence to be made real, the words of Revelation point the way.

"Heaven is an immersion in the realities of God's rule in our lives that has the effect of reviving our obedience, fortifying us for the long haul, and energizing a faithful witness." - Eugene Peterson

Reflection Questions

1. What are you longing for right now?
2. If God has a plan, and God's plans are good, then what is the benefit of God's plan to have us wait?
3. What would it be like to see "beyond the mask" and to recognize the Lord?
4. What does it mean that God will redeem the (Holy) City?