

Dig Deeper @Home – “Songs of Advent”
Complement to sermon on December 10, 2017 – Joy

MEMORIZE – Revelation 21: 3-4

And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither will there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.”

READ Revelation 21:1-8

Questions to ponder/discuss:

1. What is this passage revealing about God and what is it revealing about us as humans?
2. If the above is true, what needs to change in your life? What will that look like?
3. There are two words for “new” in Greek: *kainos* (new in kind, taking the place of what existed previously) and *neos* (‘brand new’, recent or not having long been). The word used to describe the “new heaven and new earth” is *kainos*. Given the content of vs 1 (see also Rev 21:2,5, Isaiah 65:17, 66:22) in what way(s) might this sharpen our understanding of heaven? Also, read Luke 22:19-20, John 13:34-35, 2 Corinthians 5:17. What do these verses say about the “new” (*kainos*) life that is to be lived in God’s kingdom?
4. As you read Revelation 21:1-4, we get some glimpses of what eternity in heaven will be like. What are they? Read the following scriptures and share what these references hint at what our future will be like if we have given our lives to Jesus and received the gift of forgiveness and eternal life. (John 14:2-3, John 20:19,26, 1 John 3:2, 1 Corinthians 15:42-44; 50-54; 1 Corinthians 2:9)
5. Read Revelation 21:5-8, and note one or two of: a.) the self-identifications of Christ b.) His promises. Why might we view these as an appropriate summary of this book’s message to the church?

Bottom Line – Summarize Revelation 21 in your own words

EXPERIENTIAL

Sometimes activities help us to understand and process biblical truths. The one below is a suggestion for how to experience the truths of Revelation 21.

Drawing the Scene

Take a piece of blank paper and some markers or colored pencils. Have someone read aloud Revelation 21:1-8. Close your eyes and visualize what you hear being read. Following the reading, draw on paper what you saw in your mind as you heard the scripture being read. Take time to draw it out on paper. When you are finished share what you drew and how that related to what you heard being read from Revelation 21.

SING (suggested songs to sing. Use these or any song you might want to sing)

[Come Behold the Wondrous Mystery](#) - Matt Papa

A great advent song celebrating Jesus' first coming and anticipating his second coming to bring the new heaven and the new earth.

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel – Mennonite Hymnal #111

This advent hymn has been part of the worship of the church for centuries. The phrase O Come, O Come Emmanuel dates back to the sixth century. As you sing this song, reflect on the words and the desire for Emmanuel to come to us today.

PRAY

This is a time to gather around for prayer requests and to share how you have seen God at work. It is a time to hear where God is showing up in our lives and where we need Him to help us in our lives.

Sending prayer based on the lesson:

Lord, looking to the end, we remember our beginning. You have been there all along. You are Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the End, the starting point and the destination of life. We long for the day of your return, Lord Jesus. Come to us. Abide with us. Our Lord, Emmanuel. Live in us and reign through us. For your eternal glory. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.