

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

For the week of May 19-25, 2024
"THE COMFORT OF THE RAPTURE"

GETTING STARTED

To the facilitator: Use this section to introduce the topic. If possible, give a brief recap of the sermon.

Share a memorable point, a spiritual lesson, a personal application, a question, or something that challenged you from the sermon last Sunday.

Do you have a "comfort food"? What is it and why are you drawn to it?

GROUP DISCUSSION

Read John 14:1-6.

1. When Jesus told his disciples, "Do not let your hearts be troubled," what might be causing them trouble at this point in the story? What events might have contributed to their troubled hearts? How does Jesus acknowledge their anxieties without dismissing them? What do you see from Jesus' approach to comforting his followers?
2. When Jesus speaks of going to "prepare a place" for his followers, what are some things that we can infer about heaven? What does this imagery of "many rooms" suggest about heaven? How does some of these ideas parallel Revelations 21:9-27?
3. In what ways is Jesus statement as "the way and the truth and the life" (John 14:6) such a controversial statement? How should this statement influence the way a true believer approach life's decisions and challenges?
4. Have there been times when you doubted Christ's adequacy in your life? What caused those doubts, and how were they resolved? Can you share an experience where you applied the truth of Christ's sufficiency in your life?
5. When did you first hear about the "rapture"? What did you imagine it would be like? Read 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 and 1 Corinthians 15:50-54. What details about the "rapture" do you see from these texts? In what way can you say that you anticipate that day of Christ's return?

6. Paul tells us to "encourage (comfort) one another with these words" (1 Thessalonians 4:18). What is most encouraging or comforting to you about the reality of the coming rapture of the Church and why?

NEXT STEPS

Knowing Jesus is enough and will always be enough. Our search ends with Jesus.

- In times of trouble, I will remember the comforting the truth of the rapture.
- I will remind myself that this world is not my home.
- I will allow myself to grow in my anticipation of Jesus' return.
- I will remember who I am in Jesus.
- I will remind myself of the sufficiency of Jesus.

Don't forget to:

- Go through the devotionals every day this week.
- Have a regular daily time of prayer and reading of God's Word.

CLOSING THE SESSION

Close the session by taking the time to pray for one another. Consider the following as you pray:

- Pray for a confident hope in Jesus in whatever challenges of life that you face.
- Pray for relationships to grow with other Christ-followers, that you will encourage and care for one another.
- Pray for your unsaved family, friends, and loved ones.
- Pray for protection, provision, healing and comfort for everyone who's going through physical, emotional, mental and spiritual pain.

BIBLE READING GUIDE

May 20 John 14:1-6
May 21 Matthew 6:25-34
May 22 Revelations 21:1-27
May 23 Psalms 91:1-16
May 24 Luke 4:16-30
May 25 Psalms 8:1-9
May 26 1 Peter 1:1-7