

Revelation Unwrapped

Small Group Notes - Revelation 4

Some groups may find the following suggested questions a helpful starting point. Don't feel bound by them, rather work at understanding God's word for yourselves, praying that God will help you live in the light of it.

Quote - "We need to discover all over again that worship is natural to the Christian, as it was to the godly Israelites who wrote the psalms, and that the habit of celebrating the greatness and graciousness of God yields an endless flow of thankfulness, joy, and zeal." J.I. Packer

In what ways do you agree or disagree with Jim Packer's call for us to re-discover hearts for worship?

This week John is given a vision of ultimate reality and seeing this reality moves us to worship.

Read Revelation 4

Reality is revealed by Jesus (4:1)

1. *Where might people in our culture say they find answers to life's ultimate questions like 'where do we come from' or 'why are we here' or 'what happens when we die'?*

In verse 1 Jesus invites John to "come up here" and see ultimate reality. Ultimate reality can not be imagined or discovered by humanity on our own. Ultimate reality needs to be revealed by God.

Reality is centred around God (4:2-7)

2. *What does the vision of ultimate reality in verses 2-7 show us? What does it teach us about God and His relationship to creation?*

3. *How is this picture of ultimate reality different to how we sometimes imagine it?*

Reality looks like the worship of God (4:8-11)

4. *In these verses, what reasons do the whole of creation and the whole of the church give for worshipping God?*

5. How might a closer grasp of ultimate reality and the glories of God, move us to deeper, more heartfelt worship?

6. What might this deep worship look like:

a, when we gather together as His church on a Sunday?

b, in the whole of life? How can I worship God in the everyday?

7. What 'lesser gods' are we tempted to worship (trust in, rely on, give ourselves to) in place of God? Why do we give ourselves to worshipping them?

8. How might your 'lesser gods' become less to you and our great God become everything to us?

Now spend time in prayer.

Spend some time in prayer asking specifically for one another that we will each receive in fresh ways this vision of ultimate reality. Pray specifically that we will worship Him as we gather together and also in the everyday of life.