

## Small Group Discussion Guide

Open your group with to time of sharing and prayers. Ask god to encourage your group to a greater commitment to His will for your lives and for our church.

We are starting a Spring sermon series called "God's Story." Our goal is to survey the whole Bible to gain a clearer understanding of just what God is doing through out history and how He wants us today to align our lives with His plan and purposes.

- I. We will begin our study by going to "the end" of the story.
  - a. Read Revelation 21:1-5.
    - God here is renewing His created order. Notice, what just occurred prior in Chapter 20?
    - ii. Read <u>2 Peter 3:3-7.</u>
      - 1. How will God's judgment be carried out on earth?
      - What does it mean the "heavens and earth are reserved for fire?"a. Explain.
      - 3. Note <u>1 Peter 3:10-13.</u>
        - a. What does God promise us in exchange for our present world?
- II. Now go back to <u>Revelation 21</u>. According to <u>verse 3</u>, what is God's intention for His people?
  - a. We believe that God is omnipresent—that he dwells everywhere. How will that be different then compared to our experience with God now?
  - b. What dramatic changes will occur according to verse 4?
  - c. We presently live in "the old order of things" where sin and death reign. How can we be sure that we too will experience this ultimate and final renewal of heaven and earth?
    - i. Note 2 Cor. 5:17-18,
    - ii. Heb. 10:19-25
- III. God's story in the Bible concludes with a future renewal of all things when God will dwell together with His people.
  - a. Now turn to "the beginning" of the story at creation. Read <u>Genesis 1:1-2</u>.
    - i. The Bible does not explain God It simply states that He was present at the beginning.
      - 1. How do you understand this?
      - 2. How would you answer someone who asks "where did God come from?"
  - b. Verse one states that God created everything. How has modern science challenged our faith by postulating atheistic evolution?
    - i. How do we respond to this challenge?
  - c. God as creator is also the owner and sustainer of all creation.
    - i. Note Colossians 1:15-17,
    - ii. Hebrews 1:1-3.
    - iii. According to Psalm 95, how ought we to respond to God as:
      - 1. Our creator, Owner and Sustainer?

Close your group by asking God to help each of you to have a clear understanding of His plan for this world and a greater sense of responsibility to live your life accordingly.



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