

WEST RIDGE GROUPS

Group Member Discussion Guide

Week of May 19, 2024

CHECK-IN (~20 minutes)

How was your week? What was the high part of your week? What was the low part of your week? What can we celebrate together?

MESSAGE SUMMARY

This week, Pastor Brian continued our messages series on Heaven. This week, Pastor Brian discussed the complexity and varied opinions surrounding Bible prophecy, particularly focusing on the Book of Revelation and Jesus's 1,000-year millennial reign, which he believes extends into the New Heaven and New Earth. He discussed his personal experiences that shaped his understanding of salvation, eternal security, and ruling in Heaven, emphasizing the belief that God's original plan for humans to rule over the earth will be restored through Jesus. In his message, he explained that followers of Christ who remain faithful will rule and reign with Christ, highlighting that our current lives are a preparation for this future responsibility. Our focus should be on maintaining an intimate relationship with Jesus, which will lead to eternal rewards and responsibilities in the New Heaven and New Earth.

GROUP DISCUSSION (~50 minutes)

1. Thinking back to the message this week, was there anything that challenged you personally? Share your thoughts with the group.

2. *Read Genesis 1:26-28*

What was God's original plan for humanity according to Genesis 1:26-28, and how was it affected by sin

3. *Read Revelation 5:9-10*

How does Revelation 5 depict the restoration of God's plan through Jesus, and what role do believers have in this plan?

4. Read Romans 8:16-17

What does it mean to be co-heirs with Christ and how do the scriptures explain our future roles? Share your thoughts with the group.

5. Read John 15:4

As a group, discuss the significance of abiding in Christ according to John 15 and how this principle relates to our preparation for ruling and reigning with Him.

6. Read Matthew 6:19-20

Reflecting on these verses, discuss how we can store up treasures in heaven rather than on earth. How does this relate to our future responsibilities in the New Heaven and New Earth?

WRAP-UP (~10 minutes)

It is important to be growing in our relationship with Jesus and one another - what is one next step you can take this week to grow? Share with the group and commit to holding one another accountable.

What does it look like to hold each other accountable? It can be as simple as a text or phone call during the week. Hebrews 10:25 encourages us to meet regularly and to encourage one another on a regular basis.

Example: "Hey _____, you indicated in group this week that you were struggling at work with being light in a dark place. You said that your next step was to start a conversation with someone at work this week around the topic of faith. How did that go?"

PERSONAL NOTES

This week, my next step is:

This week I am going to check in on (name):

This week, my Bible reading will be (e.g. Philippians chapters 1-4):