Lions and Dragons and Lambs, Oh My!: The Lion and the Lamb

Pastor Brian Lusky

September 1, 2019

**Life Group Discussion Questions:**

1. \*Open or Close your group meeting with a time of intentional praise. Be creative! If someone can lead a song, ask them to come prepared. Or listen to a worship song and sing along together. Or ask everyone to write their own praise chorus as you play music quietly in the background- ask someone to share what they’ve written!
2. Thinking back on this week’s sermon, was there a particular point or passage that challenged you, confused you, or caught your attention?
3. Read **Revelation 5:1-14**. Talk through the descriptions of Jesus in this chapter. What do you learn about Him? Does anything here connect to something you have learned about Jesus from past Bible reading?
4. Read **Revelation 4:8-11**. Together with the songs of praise in chapter 5, what is the picture of the throne room of God? Consider your life- does your heart, your mind, your whole self cry out “holy, worthy” to Him as you go about your days? Why is He worthy to receive this kind of praise? How do we live lives of praise?
5. Read **Matthew 24:14, 28:19-20** and **Revelation 5:9-10**. Discuss Brian’s quote- Do you feel the tragedy? Why is the global nature of the great commission so hard? How is it within our reach in this day and age to reach every person in the world with the Good News? What is your part of this commission?

“The greatest tragedy that exists in our world today is not the refugee crisis, or hunger, disease, war. The greatest tragedy that exists in our world today is that there are still people in this world who will be born, grow up, live and die in a place without having an opportunity to receive Jesus. The great commission is still the mission of every believer, and that mission’s purpose is global. It is a mission to every people group on earth.”

**Next Steps:**

How will your group serve every tribe, and language, and people and nation together this fall?

Locally: Consider finding more information about the Operation Christmas Child packing party on September 14th (search “2019 NWPA Shoebox Packing Party” on Facebook) and/or the ServErie events on October 5th and November 2nd ([www.serverie.com](http://www.serverie.com))

Global: Check out <https://whoisgrace.com/missions/> to find out how your group can GO, SEND, or SPONSOR Grace missionaries.

**Prayer Thought:** Pray for every tribe and language and people and nation. Ask God to break your hearts for ALL who are far from Him.

**Suggested Memory Verse:** Matthew 24:14

LIONS and DRAGONS and LAMBS, Oh My!: The Final Fury

Pastor Derek Sanford

September 8, 2019

**Life Group Discussion Questions:**

1. Thinking back on this week’s sermon, was there a particular point or passage that challenged you, confused you, or caught your attention?
2. **Read Revelation 6:12-17; John 3:36; Romans 5:8-10**. How do you feel as you read the accounts of God’s wrath? What does it mean to you to realize Jesus took the cup of God’s wrath for you?
3. **Read Revelation 8:1-5.** What do these verses have to say about the importance of our prayers to God? What are some steps you could take to deepen your prayer life especially as it relates to praying for those who haven’t put their faith in Jesus yet?
4. **Read Revelation 7:9-12; Matthew 28:18-20.** What are some ways your group can help those from other nations learn about Jesus, especially those who have never heard? Why is this important? (Go to joshuaproject.net for more info)
5. **Read Revelation 12:7-12**. How is Satan described in these verses? How can knowing Satan is defeated help you when he is lying to you or accusing you? As a group how can you remind one another of this truth?
6. **Read 2 Peter 3:8-10; Acts 2:37-41.** God mercifully allows our world to keep turning to give more people a chance to repent and turn to Him. Derek said, “When we don’t want anything to do with God – He sometimes lets us go our own way in the hopes that we will discover that all our idols are empty. His goal is that you would turn to him.” Share about how you have seen God do this in your life or in the lives of others.

**Next Steps**: a) Examine your life. Is God telling you to repent? Then turn to HIM.

b) Commit again to pray for those in your life who don’t yet know Jesus. As a group make a list of people you will all commit to pray for regularly. [Pray for 3 people at 3:00 for 3 minutes]

**Prayer Thought:** Use ACTS method. First take some time to ADORE (praise) God for His sovereign plan for history and for YOU. Then silently CONFESS areas where you need to repent. Next THANK God for all He has done that is worthy of praise and SAY WHAT YOU NEED and ask him to soften the hearts of those you are praying for so they will repent and turn to Him.

LIONS and DRAGONS and LAMBS, Oh My!: Counterfeit Enemy

Pastor Derek Sanford

September 15, 2019

**Life Group Discussion Questions:**

1. Thinking back on this week’s sermon, was there a particular point or passage that challenged you, confused you, or caught your attention?
2. In the sermon, the dragon, beast, second beast and the whore of Babylon are described as trying to imitate the Trinity and the church (the Bride of Christ). How do these characters distort and counterfeit the true Trinity and the church? What are some qualities of the Trinity and the church that are not true of these counterfeits?
3. Read **John 8:44**. What is the core character attribute of Satan? How have we seen this revealed throughout this series on Revelation?
4. Read **2 Corinthians 11:12-15**. Paul is talking about false apostles. How does Paul describe them and their connection with Satan?
5. Read **2 Corinthians 4:4**. Why is Satan able to deceive people into following him?
6. Read **John 14:6**. What is the character of Jesus? How is Jesus different from Satan? What makes it hard to know Jesus well to combat the lies of Satan?
7. Read **Romans 12: 2.** What does it look like day-to-day to experience this verse? What are some things that help you know more about God?

**Next Steps:** What does it look like for your group to encourage each other and hold one another accountable to actively seeking to know God and pursue intimacy with Him?

**Prayer Thought:** Have each person choose an attribute of God from this list from GotQuestions.org, “[What Are the Attributes of God](https://www.gotquestions.org/attributes-God.html)”. Take turns praising God for the truths about who He is.

LIONS AND DRAGONS AND LAMBS, OH MY: Split the Sky

Pastor: Derek Sanford

Date: September 22, 2019

**Life Group Discussion Questions:**

1. Thinking back on this week’s sermon, was there a particular point or passage that challenged you, confused you, or caught your attention?
2. Name some famous movies where a character suddenly returns to make things right.
3. Read **Revelation 19:1-6**. Imagine the roar! How is God being described in these praises?
4. Read **Revelation 19:7-9**. Here we have a description of the Church as the bride of Christ. What do we learn about the church from this passage?
5. Read **Revelation 19:10-16**. Contrast how Jesus appears in this passage from how He came to earth the first time.
6. How might the truth that Jesus is the rider on the white horse bring encouragement to those suffering for their faith? What does it look like to endure, to persevere?
7. What can we learn about Jesus from this passage?
8. Read **Revelation 19:17-21**. Why do believers need to be constantly mindful that God has determined the story’s end—that he orchestrates all of history to display His glory? What can happen when Christians fail to keep this truth in the forefront of their minds?
9. Consider watching and/or singing together the song “Even So Come” by Chris Tomlin.

**Next Steps:** Have the group share how they plan to embrace a way of life that anticipates Jesus’ return. Consider Derek’s list:

* Seek justice, because you long for heaven where there is no injustice
* Love the unlovable, because you long for heaven where everyone is fully known and fully loved
* Partner with the poor, because you long for heaven where there is no wealth or poverty
* Celebrate diversity, because you long for heaven where you will worship with people from every tribe, every tongue, and every nation.
* Put your sin to death, because you long for heaven where sin has no power.
* Help people worship Jesus, because you long for heaven, the place where every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that Jesus is Lord!

**Prayer Thought:** Have the group use Revelation 19 as a basis to praise Jesus for who He is and His second coming glory.

**Suggested Memory Verse:** *He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.* **Revelation 21:4**

**Lions and Dragons and Lambs, Oh My!: The End of the World as We Know It**

Pastor Derek Sanford

September 29, 2019

**Life Group Discussion Questions:**

1. Thinking back on this week’s sermon, was there a particular point, or passage that challenged you, confused you, or caught your attention?
2. Read **Revelation 20: 11-15, 21:8.** Does the judgement of those whose names are not found in the Book of Life cause you deep concern? Are there family and friends whom you fear may come under condemnation? In what ways can you show Christ’s love to them, and “plant the seed” so that the Holy Spirit may touch their hearts? Give examples.
3. Read **Luke 24:36-43, John 20:24-29, 1 Corinthians 15:35-54, Philippians 3:20-21.** Here the Apostles describe our new, resurrected body. How do you imagine that new body?
4. Read **Revelation 19:7-8, 21:2-3.** The image of a wedding expresses an intimate relationship between God, and His people. In the Old Testament, the Shekinah, the emblem of God’s Presence, dwelt in the Holy of Holies on top the Ark of the Covenant between the Cherubim. Only the High Priest was allowed to enter within that holy place. In the new Heaven and Earth, God shall make His Presence among all the redeemed. How are you blessed by the knowledge of this new level of community with God?
5. Read **Revelation 21:4.** Can we begin to even fathom what an eternity without sorrow, pain, or fear will be like? What about this promise gives you the greatest joy?
6. Read **Revelation 21:10-21**. Why do you think John uses such extravagant language to try to describe the Holy City? He also provides its shape, and dimensions. While the Garden of Eden was perhaps fit for only a few in number, our new home will be a place where multitudes will gather. Are we truly committed to play a role in adding to that number?

**Next Steps:** How can you show Christ’s love to the world?

**Prayer Thought:** Pray, following the **ACTS** Model

**Adoration:** Praise God for who He is, for how He has blessed your life, and for the promise of eternal life with Him.

**Confession:** Confess any sins of fear and trepidation about death, knowing a place far more beautiful than we can ever imagine awaits those who are faithful believers.

**Thanksgiving:** Thank our Heavenly Father that His Word provides us with the path that leads to an eternity of exceeding joy, and tranquility in communion with God.

**Supplication:** Pray that the Holy Spirit will nurture, and guide each one of us to live a life of praise, and service to the Kingdom.