

The Purpose of Grace Growth Groups:

Growth Groups help you take your next step with God by developing meaningful friendships built around God's Word. As we connect with one another and with God's Word, incredible things take place and we naturally grow. In community, this growth occurs through 4 primary activities:

We SHARE Life

Each week we'll take time to connect and share what is happening in our lives. This will become more natural as we begin to feel more comfortable with one another. Sharing life and accepting each other is essential to the healthy relationships needed for growth groups.

We STUDY God's Word

Each week we'll study the previous week's sermon text, though we will not rehash the sermon. Our goal is to learn how to live out our Christianity in everyday life. Accountability to God's Word is transformational and brings spiritual growth in our lives. We also take time to seek God in prayer for relevant needs and issues present in our group.

We SUPPORT Each Other

Each week we'll learn how to care for one another as Christ instructed us. People who know each other well, care for each other well. This care will take many forms, such as prayer, encouragement, listening, challenging, accountability, advice, and meeting real needs.

We SERVE Together

Spiritual growth is fostered not only by what we gain through the support and input of others, but also through service to others. Jesus reminds us that the world will know we're his disciples by our love. The role each member fills in serving one another and the local community is essential; for we were created to serve others, not ourselves. Throughout the semester, we will serve the other members of our group and together the group will serve the local community through one service project.



How Holy is God?

Observations from Revelation 16:1-21:

- I. C_____ from God (v.1)

- II. C_____ of the seven angels (v.2-17a)
 - A. C_____ from the angel and the altar (v.5-7)

 - B. C_____ reponse from the afflicted (v.8-11)

 - C. C_____ the allies of Antichrist (v.12-16)

- III. C_____ of the Wrath of God. (v.17b-21)

Growth Group Guide

For the week of September 17th, 2017

Fall Growth Group Information:

- **Today begins Week 3 of our Fall Semester of Growth Groups.** Each growth group semester lasts for 15 weeks. Sunday's mark the beginning of each new week.
-

Where to begin...

- **Step 1** – Pray together, then read Revelation 16:1-21 together.
- **Step 2** – *Know the Context of our Text:* Revelation reveals the final 7-year period known as the Tribulation, God will systematically bring judgment on wickedness and wicked people, while still giving them a chance to repent and be saved. In our text, we are in the final 3 ½ years, focusing on the final 7 judgments. The bowls represent plagues poured out by seven angels. They are not symbolic. These are the most powerful and most severe judgments of the Tribulation. This prepares the world for the second coming of Christ, when He will come in great power and great glory.

My Story:

1. What is the greatest natural or man-made disaster that you've ever witnessed? What did experiencing it cause you to feel?

Digging Deeper:

1. Our text reveals that God's righteous judgment will come upon great evil in the world and for just cause (vv.5-6). Why, in your opinion, is this judgment on evil (*referred to as Babylon in v. 19*) just on God's part? And, how would you help a non-believer understand it?

2. Our text also records the final great tools of God's judgment (*i.e., the final 7 bowl judgments*). Which one stands out to you as the worst and why?

Follow-up Question: What similarities are there to the judgments that God poured out on Egypt prior to the Exodus of Israel? (*c.f., Exodus chapters 7-12*).

3. Our text describes not only a great evil and great judgments; but it also describes a great God: His great voice (*v. 1, 17*) and His great day of victory (*v. 14*). In verse 14 Jesus reminds us that "*Behold, I am coming as a thief. Blessed is he who watches...*" How do we live today faithful to watch as verse 14 indicates?

Taking it Home:

1. God loves humanity enough to give us the consequences of our choices. Those who reject salvation in Christ will be judged; those who receive it will be saved. As believers, who have received salvation, we are to bring all our lives under the control and leadership of Jesus:

Ask yourselves then - *Are there any areas in my life that aren't under the Lordship of Christ?*