

in all things ON THE WAY HOME FROM THE GATHERING STUDY #6

GOALS:

1. Having studied the Story of All Things, this final study will take participants to the closing scenes of the Story in Revelation 21:1-7 and 22:1-5.
2. This study will help participants identify where seven biblical themes appear in Revelation 21:1-17 and 22:1-5.

As we head home from the Gathering, let's take an opportunity to go to the end of the Story of All Things.

Read through Revelation 21:1-7 and 22:1-5 with the lenses of the 7 biblical themes you have learned both at the Gathering and prior to the Gathering. Each time students recognize one of the 7 themes (water, redemption, dwelling, wisdom/enlightening, creation, reconciliation, and reign), have them shout out the icon that matches the theme (water, chains, temple, light, plant, heart, and crown).

LEADER NOTE: If you want to do something more, print out images of the icons and have students hold up the icon that matches the theme.

Prior to beginning reading, have 3 student leaders review each of the biblical themes from the Gathering. You may choose to use the student leaders identified prior to the Gathering or three new youth to lead. Use the information below for how the student leader can explain/review each Biblical theme and what words or phrases may trigger that theme.

LEADER NOTE: You may want to prep those 3 student leaders prior to starting this study to ensure that they are comfortable explaining that theme. Students can also choose simply to read off of your leader guide.

ASK: What did you learn about the biblical theme of creation?

LEADER NOTE: Allow the entire group to share what they've learned. If they hit on the main points below, feel free to jump to the next Biblical theme. Otherwise, conclude with the student leader sharing. Student leaders may choose to summarize on their own or they may simply read off this leader guide.

CREATION: God creates and recreates in the Story of All Things. The God of the Bible is a creative God, who makes things out of nothing and who chooses to sustain his creation rather than discard it. When we talk about God creating, it's not just creation in the beginning, it's creation in all things. In Christ's death and resurrection, God makes us a new creation. Today, look forward to Christ's return to make all things new.

ASK: What did you learn about the biblical theme of reconciliation?

RECONCILIATION: God reconciles His people to himself and others in the Story of All Things. As a relational God, He makes peace between himself and his creatures by the blood of Jesus cross. Reconciled to God, God now calls His people to practice reconciliation in the church and the world.

ASK: What did you learn about the biblical theme of reign?

REIGN: God reigns over the church and the world in the Story of All Things. Jesus is in charge of every corner of the universe whether the world seems orderly or chaotic. We know that God is a good ruler because of Jesus' work on the cross and His victory over death rising from the tomb. We trust that He will return on the final day and establish His kingdom for all eternity.

SAY: We're about to read Revelation 21:1-7 and 22:15, turn there in your Bibles. As we read, listen for the Biblical themes at play. Just like we did as we read through Colossians, when we see and hear those Biblical themes, shout them out. I encourage you to also put the icons in your Bible next to those words and images.

LEADER NOTE: For this portion, encourage youth to say the icon with you.



SAY: Whenever you see words or images like water, spring, wells, rivers, seas, wash, cleanse, you shout WATER!



SAY: Whenever you see words or images like redeem, deliver, rescue, save, purchase, bought, blood, possessive language like "His", you shout CHAINS!



SAY: Whenever you see words or images like dwell, presence, temple, tabernacle, church, "in Him", "(God/Christ/Spirit) in you", you shout TEMPLE!



SAY: Whenever you see words or images like wisdom, light, reveal, knowledge, truth, made known, understanding, mystery, you shout LIGHT!



SAY: Whenever you see some words or images like create, make, new/renew, grow, bear fruit, you shout CREATION!



SAY: Whenever you see words or images like restore, peace, reconcile, relationships made right, forgiveness, effects or right relationships such as removal of suffering, you shout HEART!



SAY: Whenever you see words or images like reign, kingdom, throne, rule, authority, dominion, glory, "image of God", majesty, conquer, you shout CROWN!

Read Revelation 21:1-7 and 22:1-5.

ASK: What Biblical themes stood out to you in this reading and why? In what ways did this exercise help you better understand Christ's death and resurrection? How does the end of the Story of All Things help you live in the present moment?

LEADER NOTE: Encourage youth and adults to continue this practice in their reading and re-reading of Scripture whether as a group or individually. As they fill their Bibles with these icons throughout all of the Scriptures, marvel at how these Biblical themes weave through the Story of All Things!

Conclude in prayer.