

COMMUNITY GROUP QUESTIONS

The River and the Tree of Life aka Back to the Garden

Revelation 22:1-5

“Then he showed me a river of the water of life, clear as crystal, coming from the throne of God and of the Lamb, ² in the middle of its street. On either side of the river was the tree of life, bearing twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit every month; and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. ³ There will no longer be any curse; and the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and His bond-servants will serve Him; ⁴ they will see His face, and His name will be on their foreheads. ⁵ And there will no longer be any night; and they will not have need of the light of a lamp nor the light of the sun, because the Lord God will illumine them; and they will reign forever and ever.”

To read Pastor Matt’s weekly blog on his weekend message, click here:

<https://centralchristianblog.com>

OPEN:

1. Have you ever had a fantastic day you wished would never end? How about a horrible day that couldn’t end too soon?
2. Who is your favorite hero in a fictional story?

DIG:

1. Where is the river flowing from? Where have we seen the tree of life before? What is on this tree?
2. What has been removed during this time? Why?
3. What is in the midst of the garden? What will be allowed to see that we couldn’t on earth?
5. There will be no need for light. How can that be?
6. What is man’s true purpose?

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REFLECT:

1. Look up the lyrics to *Shall We Gather at the River* by Robert Lowry. Discuss.
2. We live in this in-between time—in between the time of His ascension and His return—where life seems to be crashing down around us because of broken relationships, lost loved ones, bills piling up. In this in-between space where the consequences of our own sin (compromise) and the sin of others (persecution) impact us, we can't forget that our hope is not in this broken world, but in a new one, a re-created one where Jesus is reigning. So don't give up on your faith. Don't give in to the pressure of this world. Jesus wins. What pressure of this world have you struggled with this week?

5 MARKS FOCUS: PRAYER

Now is an important time to remember: don't give in, don't give up, Jesus wins. Pray for strength to stay strong in your faith, to stay in the Word, and to encourage your brothers and sisters in Christ to do the same. Make the time this week to spend time in prayer with another believer.