

Small Group Leader's Guide

Revelation 7 | Signed, Sealed and Delivered

Main Truth: God seals His people, Jesus saves and shepherds His people, and saving faith personally trusts in Christ.



Know It

1. God Seals His People

Read Revelation 7:1–8 and Ephesians 1:13–14.

Before judgment continues, God marks His servants as belonging to Him. Ephesians teaches that believers are sealed with the Holy Spirit, who guarantees their future inheritance.

1. **What does God's command to seal His servants before judgment tell us about His authority and care for His people?**
2. **According to Ephesians 1:13–14, when are believers sealed, and how does the Holy Spirit's presence assure us that we belong to God?**
3. **How could knowing you belong to God change the way you respond to fear, uncertainty, or pressure this week?**

Three Leadership Tips

- **Explain the seal.** In the ancient world, a seal identified ownership, authenticated something, and could secure it. Here, God identifies these servants as His own. Emphasize that judgment proceeds under God's authority; He has not forgotten His people.
- **Distinguish the two passages.** In the futurist, pretribulation understanding of Revelation, the 144,000 are Israelites whom God seals during the future tribulation. Ephesians describes believers today being sealed with the Holy Spirit upon believing the gospel. Connect the assurance of belonging to God while preserving that distinction.
- **Help members apply assurance accurately.** Being sealed does not mean Christians never suffer. Our confidence rests in God's ownership and promised inheritance. Ask members to identify a specific fear they can entrust to Him.

2. Jesus Saves and Shepherds His People through Tribulation

Read Revelation 7:9–17.

John sees an innumerable multitude from every nation worshipping before the throne. Their salvation comes from God and the Lamb. The Lamb who saved them also shepherds them, and God wipes away their tears.

1. **What stands out to you about this multitude—their diversity, their worship, or their salvation—and what does it reveal about God's saving work?**
2. **These believers experienced great tribulation, yet they stand before God's throne. What does this teach us about the difference between God's faithfulness and a life without suffering?**
3. **Which promise in verses 15–17 brings you the greatest comfort, and how can our group share that comfort with someone who is hurting?**

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Three Leadership Tips

- **Highlight the reach and source of salvation.** Every nation, tribe, people, and language is represented. Their unity comes from salvation through the Lamb. The robes made white in His blood picture cleansing through Jesus' sacrificial death, rather than their own goodness.
- **Clarify the tribulation setting.** Within the sermon's pretribulation framework, this multitude consists of people saved during the future great tribulation. Their presence before the throne shows that suffering cannot defeat Christ's saving work.
- **Draw attention to the Lamb who shepherds.** Jesus is both the sacrifice who saves and the Shepherd who cares for His people. Let hurting members speak without rushing to explain their pain. Point to the passage's concrete promises: God's presence, provision, protection, and the removal of every tear.

3. Three Keys to Saving Faith

Read Ephesians 1:13; James 2:19; John 1:12; and Romans 4:3,5.

- **Notitia—Knowledge:** Hearing and understanding the gospel message.
- **Assensus—Assent:** Believing the gospel message is true.
- **Fiducia—Trust:** Personally relying on Jesus Christ for salvation.

These terms describe aspects of saving faith, rather than three separate achievements we must earn.

1. **Knowledge:** If someone asked, "What is the gospel?" how would you explain who Jesus is, what He has done, and how we respond?
2. **Assent:** James 2:19 says even demons believe that God is one. Why is agreeing with true statements about God insufficient by itself?
3. **Trust:** According to John 1:12 and Romans 4:3,5, what does it mean to personally trust Christ? How is that different from relying on good works, church involvement, or religious knowledge?

Three Leadership Tips

- **Keep the gospel clear and simple.** Jesus is God's Son, who died for our sins and rose again. We are called to repent and believe in Him. Knowledge does not require mastering every theological question; it means understanding the message well enough to know whom we are trusting and why.
- **Explain James carefully.** James says demons believe that God is one; he does not say they trust Christ for salvation. His example shows that correct beliefs alone are insufficient. These Latin terms are teaching categories, rather than words found in the original biblical text.
- **Make personal reliance concrete.** Knowing a chair can hold you, agreeing that it will, and sitting in it illustrate knowledge, assent, and trust. Then return to Romans 4:5: saving faith relies on God who justifies the ungodly. Invite honest reflection without pressuring anyone to disclose doubts publicly.



Prayer

Closing Prayer: Thank God for sealing those who believe, for saving us through Jesus, and for shepherding His people. Pray that each person would personally trust Christ and share His hope with others.