

Group Leader notes for week of 10-14

Community Outreach: Small groups are being asked to each host a car for our "Trunk or Treat" on Wednesday, October 31 from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Just decorate with a theme, come up with a carnival type of simple game for kids to play, and provide candy and/or prizes for kids, show up and have fun.
(Please confirm with Galley or I that your group will be coming, thanks!)

What You Won't Find On the New Earth! Revelation 21:22-27

Memory Verse: Revelation 21:22

"I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple."

Weekly Reading:

Day 1	Isaiah 6:1-7
Day 2	Isaiah 53
Day 3	Psalms 32
Day 4	Psalms 103
Day 5	Psalms 130

Study Questions:

- 1 In the reading this week, we are constantly reminded of God removing sin completely. Sin will not be present in Heaven! What do you think earth would be like without sin?

I sometimes have a hard time even imagining a world without sin and its influence. It is easy to think of a world without crime and violence. But so many other things I see in this world are rooted in sin or at the very least, influenced by sin. Pride is a factor in so many pursuits of life. Businesses and professions are often started for the fulfillment of people's pride. Even competition can be rooted in pride as we want to all be the winners. Families and relationships are broken because of sin. Prejudices against others create isolation of some and clichés for others. We all have people we like to be around and people we choose to stay away from. Uncaring attitude towards others allow us to live our lives for ourselves. Selfishness and greed are a way of life on this earth. Can you imagine none of that being able to be a part of New Earth? I can't! But I do look forward to experiencing it first hand, hallelujah!

- 2 Make a list of the things in this world that are present as a direct result of sin in the world that would no longer exist on a sinless New Earth?

Group leaders; have fun with this exercise. Consider even making this a "friendly" competition between two halves of your group to see who can come up with the most legitimate things. Allow groups to present their lists and let that become a launching off of discussion. You may find disagreement on certain things but that's ok!

3. In Revelation 21:25-27 we see nothing impure present on New Earth and no need for gates to be locked. How does that reinforce your understanding about Heaven being a good place to go?

With nothing impure and no need to lock gates what a difference. A few months ago, about 10:30pm someone broke through our screen door and started trying to break in the house. We were home and called the police and got through this incident without harm (other than a broken screen door and damaged lock) but needless to say Sherry (of course not I) was scared. Since then we installed a

security system and put on a new door lock. On New Earth, we will all love perfectly and will have no need to even shut doors let alone lock them. We will come and go as we please and never fear anyone.

4. Why do you think there will be no need for churches in Heaven? What scriptures would support your opinion?

If we are in the direct presence of God and we will worship him face to face why go to church? Come on now, I love Tim's message but compared to listening to Jesus himself, sorry Tim. I love Dave's leading us in worship but when we can join together with the multitude around the throne of God, sorry Dave. Let's face it the only other purpose of a church would be to minister and to love on one another and to serve others with one another and that we will be doing with the whole church together with the multitudes and our purpose will be different when we all know Christ and all live in a sin free world. Just my thoughts.

Final Thought: One thing I often do in small group is play music as an opening devotional time or perhaps as a closing time with our prayer. Today as I drove to the church this song hit me and I wanted to share it with you. The song *Unaware* by Mercy Me from the album *Undone*, really brings home my thoughts of the unimaginable amazing grace of God that brought me to Him through Christ Jesus. I believe I will experience this overwhelming sense of pleasure in His presence for eternity. If you have this song on CD consider playing it or choose one that has touched you. Often my group will break into praise and we sing along out loud. Not because we planned it but because God moves.

Unaware – Mercy Me

Forgive me if I stare
But I am taken back
That You would let me here
Regardless of my past
Oh my hands are shaking now
But I catch my breath somehow
Oh, I am free at last

Unaware of my fears
Unaware of my shame
Nothing else matters here
But glorifying Your name
Unaware of everything
Knowing You're aware of me

Tell me how I got here
I couldn't make it on my own
Just tell me I can stay
Cause it feels so much like home
And I lose all track of time
When I look into Your eyes
Your love is all I know

Unaware of my fears
Unaware of my shame
Nothing else matters here
But glorifying Your name
Unaware of everything
Knowing You're aware of me

I'm aware I'm in a place I couldn't be
If You weren't there to call my name and rescue me

Unaware of my fears
Unaware of my shame
Nothing else matters here
But glorifying Your name

I'm unaware of all my fears
And I'm unaware of all my shame
Nothing else matters here
But glorifying Your name

I'm unaware that I still breathe
Unaware of everything
Knowing You're aware of me