

GROWTH GROUPS

December 4, 2011

Mark 13:32-37, Revelation 21:1-8

Conversation Starter –

As we celebrate the advent season we are both waiting to celebrate Christ's birth and participating in a larger advent, waiting for Christ to come again. What are you waiting for in your life? What was an experience you've had where you had to wait a long time for something? What was that like? How were your expectations confirmed or challenged by what happened?

Understanding –

Mark 13 tells us to "keep awake," because we do not know when Christ will return. Revelation 21 tells us what Christ's return will look like.

1. In Mark 13:32-37 Jesus compares our waiting for Christ's return with a man going on a journey, leaving his servants in charge without telling them when he will return. He warns us to "keep awake," as we await His second coming. What does it mean to be "awake" for Christ's coming? Are you "awake"? How can you help others to be ready for Christ's coming?
2. Revelation 21:3-4 paints a very hopeful picture of Christ's return. How does this image impact you? What does it mean to say that God's home is among mortals? How can you help to welcome God home?
3. Revelation 21:8 paints a rather frightening picture for those who don't believe in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. How does this effect how you feel about your faith? How does this effect how you tell others about Christ? Is it just in scripture to scare us, or is there hope for grace too?
4. As we celebrate Christ's birth, how can we also celebrate Christ's second coming? What does it mean to you to worship Christ fully? What does Advent have to do with Christ's second coming?

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