

DAY ONE

1. Share with your group something that inspired you from last week's lesson, commentary or talks?

Read Revelation 14:1-3

NOTE: Following the visions of the dragon and beasts, Chapter 14 brings a consoling message of hope. This has been an ongoing structure in Revelation with scenes of danger and fear alternating with scenes of God's salvation and joy. *Williamson*

2a. As we begin Chapter 14 today, John continued with his vision and saw the Lamb standing on Mount Zion. Who was with the Lamb and how were they marked (verse 1)?

b In the Old Testament, Mount Zion in Jerusalem was a place of God's presence and salvation. (see [Psalm 74:2](#); [Joel 3:5](#)) Besides this verse in Revelation, the only other reference to Mount Zion in the New Testament is found in Hebrews. Read [Hebrews 12:22-23](#) and record a phrase or two about Mount Zion.

3a. How did the hundred and forty-four thousand who were marked differ from those marked in [Revelation 13:16-17](#)?

b. To mark someone or something appears frequently in Revelation. What are some examples of things you see that are marked or have logos?

4a. John heard a sound from heaven. Complete below how that sound was described (verse 2).

like the sound of

or a loud

like that of harpists

b. Sounds in nature have often been associated with a theophany, the presence of God. If you could hear God's voice, how do you think it might sound?

5a. John heard the hundred and forty-four thousand singing. What were they singing and before whom according to the first sentence of verse 3?

b. What exception was made in reference to this hymn (second sentence of verse 3)?

NOTE: A new hymn or song, an Old Testament term, was composed in gratitude to God each time he saved his people. (see Exodus 15:1-19) *Williamson*

6. **CONNECTION:** Like the one hundred and forty-four thousand who had the Lamb's name and his Father's name written on their foreheads, at your baptism you also received the mark of God. In John's day putting a mark on a person could stand for many things: loyalty, ownership, dependence, security, safety and protection. How might you apply these to your relationship to the Lamb and his Father? Share some ideas with your group.

Write a prayer today thanking God for his mark upon you and the blessings it has brought into your life.

DAY TWO

Read Revelation 14:4-7

7. The hundred and forty-four thousand who had been ransomed from the earth were referred to as virgins who were not defiled with women (verse 4). How were they described at the end of the first sentence of verse 4?

NOTE: The word "virgin" is best understood as a metaphor for those who are faithful to the Lord. *Williamson*

8. Fill in below how the one hundred forty-four thousand were additionally described (remainder of verses 4-5).

They have been ransomed as

for God and

On their lips

they are

9a. Who did John see and where according to the first part of verse 6?

b. The angel that flew overhead was in midheaven, according to some translations. How is your view of the visible sky affected if you consider it as midheaven?

10a. What was the angel's announcement and to whom was it directed (verse 6)?

b. The everlasting good news was proclaimed as the eternal gospel because of man's acknowledgment of God to be rewarded at the final judgment and made valid forever (*Navarre*). Record a phrase from one of the following scripture verses that helps your understanding of the everlasting good news.

John 6:40

Romans 16:25

1 Peter 1:3-5

11. The angel announced his news in verse 7 with a loud voice. What part of the message below do you find to be everlasting good news and why?

Fear God and give him glory

for his time has come to sit in judgment

Worship him who made heaven and earth and sea and springs of water

12. CONNECTION: The angel's voice loudly proclaimed we must fear God, give him glory and worship him. Fear of the Lord is one of the gifts of the Holy Spirit, a virtue. It means our love for God is so great as to fear being separated from him.

Fear can become negative and weighs us down when it holds us back from trusting a loving God, when we become stationary, afraid of rejection, failure, embarrassment or loneliness. Walking in faith is to rise above our fears and rely on God's love. How have you been able to develop the faith to confront and overcome your fears? Share a recent story with your group.

Read and record 1 John 4:18 and hold in your heart the blessing of God's love that overcomes all your fears.

DAY THREE

Read Revelation 14:8-11

13a. Today's lesson begins with a second angel speaking about the fallen city of Babylon the great. What was said about Babylon according to verse 8?

b. This verse illustrates the seductive power and resulting destruction of Babylon. Comment on how that might be a metaphor for the world today.

NOTE: Babylon was a powerful and ancient city of Mesopotamia located along the Euphrates River (modern Iraq). It was known for its moral decay and blasphemous power that destroyed Jerusalem in the sixth century B.C. Some interpret Babylon symbolically as representing Rome.
Ignatius

14. John noticed and heard a loud voice coming from a third angel. About whom was the angel speaking according to verse 9?

15a. Complete below what will happen to those who worshiped the beast (verse 10)?

will also drink

poured full strength

and will be tormented

before the

b. Why do you think this torment will be witnessed by the holy angels and the Lamb?

16. The torment in burning sulfur (brimstone) recalls God's judgment on Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 19). The church has shifted from preaching fire and brimstone to homilies with a message of salvation and the mercy of God. Why do you think that is?

17a. The smoke of the fire that torments them will rise forever and ever (verse 11). Record the lasting effect of the punishment.

b. How does this verse relate to your understanding of hell?

18. CONNECTION: These difficult verses in our lesson today speak of judgment, punishment, and unrelenting torment. They illustrate a life without God, forever separated from all love, all light and goodness. None of us knows the reality of an eternity without God, but we do know the way to his love, truth and mercy through the Gospel message. John's vivid images are a call to repentance and return to God's grace and peace. Today is a harsh reminder of how to live a faithful life in the name of Jesus, a life of love and service to others. Share with your group one thing you did this week or a daily habit that keeps fresh your spiritual journey.

Read the following words from Wisdom 11:23-26 and let them be a reminder that our loving Creator awaits us with mercy and compassion.

But you have mercy on all, because you can do all things; and you overlook sins for the sake of repentance. For you love all things that are and loathe nothing that you have made; for you would not fashion what you hate. How could a thing remain, unless you willed it; or be preserved, had it not been called forth by you? But you spare all things, because they are yours, O Ruler and Lover of souls, for your imperishable spirit is in all things!

DAY FOUR

Read Revelation 14:12-13

19. We begin today's passage with a message of hope for the faithful. Who are the holy ones according to verse 12?

20a. Then John heard a voice from heaven. What was he directed to write according to the first sentence in verse 13?

b. Give an example of a person who has died "in the Lord."

21a. Record the words of the Spirit (remainder of verse 13).

b. Verse 13 is the second of seven beatitudes found in the Book of Revelation. Record the first beatitude from Revelation 1:3.

22. Read and record, from one of the following, a phrase that relates to the words of the Spirit who said the works of those who die in the Lord will accompany them.

Luke 6:35

Colossians 3:23-24

Hebrews 4:10

23. Comment on how these words might be encouraging to you.

24. CONNECTION: Today a message of hope was brought to the faithful. God's blessings were promised to those who die in the Lord and their works will accompany them. It is consoling to know that the "death" of one who is faithful is instead a "rest" that marks the beginning of a new life, a new awakening. Our lives are a time of preparation whereby our labors and works define who we are and follow us into eternity. How does this message of hope resonate in your life? Has it helped you in the grieving process following a loss of a family member or friend? Share some thoughts with your group.

Read and record Matthew 11:28. Today give praise and thanksgiving to God for his promises of comfort and rest.

DAY FIVE

Read Revelation 14:14-16

25a. Our passage today begins with John looking at someone sitting on a white cloud. Complete below the details of John's vision (verse 14).

looked like

with a gold crown

and a sharp sickle

b. What does this image suggest to you?

26a. Verse 15 begins with the appearance of another angel coming out of the temple who cried out in a loud voice to the one sitting on the cloud. What was the angel's message?

b. The announcement that the time to reap has come is consistent with Jesus' teachings. Read and record one of the scripture verses below that show God has set a fixed time for the end.

Matthew 24:36

Acts 1:7

27. How did the one who sat on the cloud respond to the angel's command, and what was the result according to verse 16?

28. Comment on this image that brings a frightening picture to mind, that of a grim reaper, a powerful symbol of death popularized in movies, art and literature.

29. Read Matthew 25:31-36. How are those who inherit the kingdom, the sheep on the right side of the Son of Man, described as worthy in the judgment of nations?

30. CONNECTION: The angel brought a message that the time had come, the harvest was ripe, a time only God could reveal. Judgment would be swift and final. We are ripened and blessed by our good works that will follow us to eternal peace and joy. Time, harvest, ripening, sickle and reaping are the measuring tools of our divine judgment. Which of these tools or concepts inspires you on your faith journey and helps measure your call to God's judgment? Share some thoughts with your group.

Read and record John 15:5. Pray to always be good fruit ready and ripe for the harvest.

DAY SIX

Read Revelation 14:17-20

31. Today we read of another angel's appearance. From where did the angel appear and what was he carrying (verse 17)?

32a. John's vision of the heavens revealed a sixth angel. Complete below the details from the first part of verse 18.

another angel came

who was in charge

cried out in a loud voice to

b. Record the angel's command from the remainder of verse 18.

33a. How did the angel respond according to the first sentence of verse 19?

b. The word "sickle" is used seven times in this passage. Considering the symbolical use of numbers in Revelation, what do you think might be the reason?

34a. What were the results of the angel's action (verse 19)?

b. The winepress of God's great fury is a metaphor for judgment. Look up one of the following and record a phrase or two that illustrate God's judgment.

Isaiah 63:6

Lamentations 1:15

Joel 4:13

NOTE: The title of John Steinbeck's novel, "The Grapes of Wrath" was borrowed from the Battle Hymn of the Republic, written in 1861 by Julia Howe. The song concerns the evil and hatred surrounding the Civil War and predicts the end of evil and the coming of justice. The theme of this song was linked to Revelation 14:19-20. Its opening stanza uses the phrase "grapes of wrath." "Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord; He is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored; He hath loosed the fateful lightning of His terrible swift sword; His truth is marching on."

35. The winepress was trodden outside the city. Record what poured out from the winepress and how was it described (verse 20).

NOTE: Two hundred miles are equal to approximately 1600 stadia, roughly the size of Israel. The number is symbolic when factored to 40 x 40, representing completeness, and may indicate judgment of the whole earth. *Ignatius*

36. CONNECTION: Today's passage presents an image of judgment, of separating the faithful from the unfaithful. Though the scene is fearsome, it need not be so for the faithful who can be excited and eager to begin eternity in heaven with God. Jesus said, "Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes in the one who sent me has eternal life and will not come to condemnation, but has passed from death to life." (John 5:24) Give an example of how these words bring you a vision of heaven through a message of hope and help remove any fear that you might have about the last day?

Jesus said, "I will raise him on the last day." (John 6:44) Remembering that he spoke those words to you, begin your prayer.

Read pages 61-67 in the *New Collegeville Commentary, The Book of Revelation* by Catherine A. Cory, Ph.D. The Cornerstone Catholic Scripture Study acknowledges that scripture quotations in this study are from the New American Bible, Revised Edition

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