

# **Growth Group Questions**

*All Saints Celebrated, November 6, 2022*

## **Being Together**

Most believers can think of someone they have known or loved who is already enjoying the glory of the Saints Triumphant. Take time to share with the group a memory of one of these members of the “cloud of witnesses” and how they encouraged (or still encourage) you in your faith.

## **Into the Word**

1. There’s no time to say it in a sermon so you get bonus material. John writes in verse 1 that in the vision of the new earth “there was no longer any sea.” There’s nothing sinful about the sea, so what does John mean? The best interpretation I’ve found is that John, exiled on Patmos and separated by sea from his beloved Ephesian congregation, looks to a time when believers are perfectly united. What barriers to unity will not be a part of our heavenly experience?
2. In what ways might the Church (capital “C”!) be compared to a bride on her wedding day?
3. We often think of heaven in terms of departed relatives that we’ll see again. That’s a blessing, but the greatest relationship we’ll rejoice in is with whom? How might you express that thought to a person mourning the loss of a loved one?
4. Discuss the three pictures of grace in verse 6. Which is your favorite.
  - It is done. (a different word than “It is finished.”)
  - Alpha & Omega, Beginning and End
  - Free water of life to the thirsty
5. In an effort to be more inclusive the NIV2011 robs believers of the full comfort of verse seven. The last word means “sons” in Greek, not “children.” In a verse that talks about inheriting all these blessings why would the label “sons” carry more meaning than just “children”?

## **Putting into Practice**

6. Verse four is one of the greatest comforts of Scripture. What part of our current “old order of things” are you most looking forward to God wiping away?
7. Sometimes it is helpful to think ahead to what you will say in certain situations. What do you say at a funeral to the spouse or child or parent of the departed? What might you use from these verses to offer comfort to someone mourning?
8. Combining the hope of our Revelation text with the Gospel lesson from the Beatitudes, how do you find peace to deal with the struggles of life on this side of heaven?
9. Find someone this week who is poor, or hungry, weeping, or persecuted and be part of God’s promise of blessing to them. Give them support, food, or care of some kind and let your faithful love shine.

## **Prayer**

Savior Jesus, your death was the death that should have been mine. Your return to life is the promise that I will rise too. Bless me as I think of my heavenly home to recognize how foolish it is to worry so much about this temporary dwelling here. Return my focus to you, and bless me as I walk toward my eternal rest. Amen.

## **Bonus Prayer**

Heavenly Father, you establish worldly authorities to bless us with peace and stability in society, protection from the worst dangers, and safety from hostile enemies. This week we are blessed to not only benefit from our American government but participate in it. Lead the people of our nation to give you praise for this great blessing. Help us to elect leaders who will protect the innocent and serve with integrity. Once the election is over, help us to find peace with those in authority, knowing that you are ruler of all. In Jesus’ name. Amen.