



Group Leader Guide “The Finished Project” – Building Blocks November 2-3, 2019

Group Creed

We come together as a Group with the goal of Spiritual Formation; encouraging one another to become the same kind of person that Jesus is, so that we can live out every part of our lives inside of His Kingdom.

// Message Summary

Ben Foote wraps up the **Building Blocks** series this week. Now that the foundation for a with-God life has been laid, we look ahead to what the finished project looks like. **Revelation 21:1-5** describes what the future will look like for those of us who have put our faith in Jesus: creation, our spiritual lives, our relationship with God, and our physical lives will all be perfected. Ben dives deep into what this means for both then and, more pressingly, now.

// Biblical Context

New Creation: The idea of God renewing or re-creating the world is not unique to the book of **Revelation**. It is a theme throughout the entire Bible. It is mentioned throughout the New Testament, and Jesus Himself mentions it in **Matthew 19:28**. Most of these, including **Revelation 21**, are references back to the Old Testament book of Isaiah, especially **Isaiah 65:17-25**. This passage describes what the new world will be like. **“no longer any sea”:** This part in **Revelation 21:1** is confusing. After all, what could be wrong with the sea? Several explanations have been given. First, it could refer to an extremely literal interpretation of **Isaiah 65:17** which mentions new heavens and a new earth, but fails to mention a new sea. However, it is more likely that it is rather referring to what the sea represented to

Jewish people, including the author of this book, John. **Isaiah 57:19-21** compares wicked people to the sea in that they have no peace and no peace shall be with them. The sea represented chaos, as the “deep” in **Genesis 1:2** represents. Also, earlier in Revelation, John talks about the sea being where the Beast comes from (**13:1**) and is the throne of the “great prostitute” (**17:1**). Therefore, the new creation having no sea is probably more representative of there being no chaos, disorder, or wickedness rather than there being no large bodies of water.

White Robes and Palm Branches (Revelation 7:9): White robes were appropriate attire to worship God in the temple as they represented purity and holiness. Palm branches had a couple different meanings, both of which are relevant to this depiction. They were used in the Feast of Tabernacles, which was a Jewish celebration of God delivering the Israelites from slavery in Egypt. They also were used to celebrate victory. Jesus was welcomed with palm branches during the Triumphal Entry, as well. Both Jesus’ entrance and the worship of the Lamb (Jesus) in Revelation can be seen as celebrations of victory over death (for which Jesus was about to do in **Matthew 21, Mark 11, Luke 19, and John 12**, and which had already been done in **Revelation**, as well as celebrating Him for delivering us from our own slavery to sin.

// In Preparation

When we started this whole groups thing, our desire was that groups would grow together in multiple ways. One of those ways was by looking past the borders of the group itself to serve the Kingdom of God. Ben talks a lot this week about why Flatirons does some of the things we do like start multiple campuses, start a campus in a prison, partner up with organizations serving some of the most hurting people in the world, and send our people there to personally invest. The reason is so that as many people as possible, no matter their background, race, sexual orientation, beliefs, etc. can meet the real Jesus and surrender their lives to Him. We want heaven to be crowded and we want to be used by God to help achieve that. So, as the leader of your group, what can your group be doing to help grow the Kingdom of God? The possibilities are numerous, but here are some examples: do a community service job together, volunteer at church together as a group, apply to go on a mission trip together to go serve one of our partners, everybody invite someone to church over the next 6 months. Start to dream and pray about how your group could really impact the Kingdom. The discussion questions this week will help you get ideas, feedback, and buy-in from your group as well.

// References

Keener, Craig S Ph.d. *IVP Bible Background Commentary: New Testament*. InterVarsity Press, 2014.

Kaiser, Walter C., et al. *Hard Sayings of the Bible*. InterVarsity Press, 2010.



Discussion Questions

“The Finished Project” – Building Blocks

November 2-3, 2019

Group Creed

We come together as a Group with the goal of Spiritual Formation; encouraging one another to become the same kind of person that Jesus is, so that we can live out every part of our lives inside of His Kingdom.

// Bible References

Revelation 21:1-5; Revelation 7:9-10

// Community Questions

1. Have you ever built or created something without a vision of what it was supposed to look like at the end? How bad was it?

// Core Questions

1. When you think of “heaven” or whatever comes after this life, what images come to mind?
2. From Revelation 21’s description, what resonated with you the most about living in the new creation? Perfect creation, perfect spiritual life, perfect relationship with God, or perfect physical life?
3. If one of Flatirons’ goals is to invite as many people in as possible so that they can experience the “finished project,” how can you as a group partner with Flatirons to do that?
4. What do you feel God tugging on your heart for you to do in order to grow the Kingdom of God?
5. Who has God placed in your life that needs to hear the good news of Jesus and be invited into His Kingdom?

// Challenge

Continuing the discussion from above, discuss as a group ways in which you all can broaden your impact in the Kingdom of God. What can you all do as a group that either serves people or invites them in, or both? This may be applying for a mission trip together to one of our partners, doing a community service project together, volunteering at church together, or simply agreeing that everyone invites someone to church over the next few months. God wants to use people like you to grow the Kingdom. Flatirons’ vision is to bring the awesome life of Christ to a lost and broken world. “Flatirons” isn’t just the people on staff. It is you and your group, so please partner with us in being used by God to make the new creation as crowded as possible!