



About the Series: Often our vision is clouded by the chaos of life; both in our personal lives and in the world around us. Our Spring Semester of Growth groups gives us a different picture. Jesus gives us a vision of heavenly things through the book of Revelation. In the swirling chaos of life, funnel your focus on Jesus as the Risen and Victorious Savior.

Small Groups Meeting in Spring of 2019

| Location | Day and Time | Type of Group |
|---------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|
| Dunn Bros in Hugo | Tuesdays at 6:30am | Men's Bible Study |
| CLC in NSP | Tuesdays at 9:30am | Women's Bible Study |
| Maplewood | Tuesdays at 7:00pm | Growth Group |
| Hugo | Wednesdays at 6:30pm | Growth Group |
| Shar'els in Oakdale | Thursdays at 6:30am | Men's Bible Study |
| Lake Elmo | Thursdays at 6:30pm | Growth Group |
| CLC Hugo | Thursdays at 6:30pm | Bible Information Class |
| CLC Hugo | Thursdays at 6:30pm | Women's Bible Study |

Please visit christlutheran.us and click on "small groups" in the top menu bar for more details and to register online.

Growth Group Study Guide

For the week of April 28, 2019



Opening Prayer

My Story:

They say a picture is worth a 1000 words. Try to describe the best photograph you have ever taken using illustrative words. But please try to keep it to under 1000 words! 😊

Digging In:

Compare the first Scripture lesson from Sunday (Acts 5:12, 17-32) with the Gospel reading (John 20:19-31). Keep in mind that the first lesson actually happened after the Gospel reading. What change do we see in Peter and the other apostles? What caused that change?

Consider the greeting in today's sermon text (Revelation 1:4-6). Describe what the following phrases mean:

- Him who was, and who is, and who is to come
- Firstborn from the dead
- Kingdom and priests to serve his God

Look at the map (top of next page) for the location of the seven churches mentioned in Revelation 1. Who started those churches? Do you think there are still Christian churches in those locations today? How long do you think our church will remain faithful to the one true faith? Is there something we can do to ensure faithfulness at Christ Lutheran?



Revelation 1:20 tells us that the seven lampstands represent the seven churches. Read Matthew 5:16 & John 8:12 for a better understanding of why a lampstand was chosen as a symbol for the church. Do you see yourself as part of the lamp? If a lamp burns oil, what is the oil that helps us shine brighter in a dark world?

Application:

Do you ever feel as though family photographs are like “Burst of Joy,” the picture talked about in the sermon? Do our favorite Facebook profile pics not reveal the chaos or sadness that quickly followed that picture? How does the vision John portrays of Jesus in heaven give us lasting hope rather than a momentary burst of joy?

Read through Revelation 1:13-18. Which description of Jesus stands out the most to you? What comfort do you find in this description?

Do you agree with Pastor's opinion that our society has a watered down picture of Jesus as a meek and mild teacher who just taught us all to get along and play nice together? Why does this world not want to picture Jesus as a powerful King of kings? Why is a description of Jesus' awesome power comforting, however, for true believers?

Why was Jesus' physical touch so important to John? In a world of communication via messaging/Facebook, in a society where physical touch may be labeled harassment, is there a way to bring reassurance to troubled hearts in tangible ways? How can you bring that type of comfort to others?

What things that you see with your eyes in the world today trouble you the most? How does today's vision from Revelation alleviate those worries?

Closing Prayer:

Dear Jesus, we admit that we often have a mistaken impression of you. Our view often minimizes your divine power and glory. Change our vision of you so that we may see you in all your resurrected power and heavenly glory. When things get chaotic in the world and in our lives, keep us focused on your amazing power and grace and assure us that you are in complete control. In your saving name we pray, Amen.