

the **BIG** Story

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**RESTORATION**

DISCUSSION GUIDE

# The Wedding Supper of the Lamb

(Revelation 19.1-10)

Week of May 5th, 2019

*This guide is designed to be used for community group discussions, but can easily be adapted for personal reflection.*

## Leader's Notes

As we've been working through our series the Big Story, we've been saying that the Bible is not a series of isolated moral tales, but rather each of the smaller parts help to form a bigger story. This story can be summarized: Creation, Fall, Redemption and Restoration. Since January we have been trying to work through these themes by drilling down into 3 places in Scripture: Genesis 1-4 (beginning), Romans 1-4 (middle), and Revelation (19-22).

**Rev. 19:1-2** John had seen a **great multitude**, representing every nation, standing before God's throne **in heaven** and extolling his **salvation** (see 7:9-10). Now that countless choir, redeemed by the Lamb (7:14), praises God also for his just vengeance on the prostitute who murdered the saints. **Hallelujah**, which occurs only here in the NT (19:1, 3, 4, 6), comes from a Hebrew term for "praise Yahweh," seen often in the Psalms (esp. Psalms 113-118). **true and just**. God's judgments will expose every lie and right every wrong (Rev. 15:3; 16:7). As in 18:23-24, **the great prostitute** is condemned for twin crimes: she **corrupted the earth** (11:18) through beguiling pleasure, and she shed the **blood** of God's **servants** (17:6), which he has finally avenged (6:10).

**Rev. 19:3** Babylon's **smoke ... goes up forever and ever**, symbolizing irreversible judgment (like the millstone in the sea, 18:21). The heavenly praise of God (**Hallelujah!**) for this judgment can be understood only in light of the pervasive evil of "the great prostitute" (19:2) and the infinite worthiness of the God whom she repeatedly blasphemed.

**Rev. 19:4** The worship offered by the **elders** and **living creatures** links this consummation celebration with the earlier vision of God and the Lamb (5:8-10). **Amen** (the English transliteration of the Gk. word *amēn*, which was itself taken from a word with the same sound in Hebrew, 'amen) expresses confident certainty (John 10:7) or strong agreement (1 Cor. 14:16).

**Rev. 19:5** A voice **from the throne** transposes the Hebrew expression "Hallelujah" (see note on vv. 1-2) into the Greek language of John's hearers, with the command,

**“Praise our God.”** As God’s **servants** include both **small and great**, so also, sadly, does the army that follows the beast (v. 18).

**Rev. 19:6** The next voice is like that of a **great multitude, many waters**, and **mighty peals of thunder**, and it comes from a great worshiping multitude in heaven (cf. 14:2). **The Almighty reigns** throughout history, but here (as in 11:15–17) he is praised for establishing his reign without rival or resistance at Christ’s return (see 1 Cor. 15:24).

**Rev. 19:7–8** With the prostitute destroyed, the Lamb’s pure **Bride** is announced, arrayed in purity. **it was granted**. Her gown of righteous deeds is her groom’s gift of grace (cf. Isa. 61:10; Rev. 6:11; 7:14). On the church as bride of Christ, see 21:2, 9; 22:17; 2 Cor. 11:2; Eph. 5:25–27.

**Rev. 19:9–10 Blessed.** Revelation’s fourth of seven benedictions. Those **invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb** are believers who belong to his beloved bride, the church, who have been called through the gospel of grace (Isa. 25:6–9; Luke 14:15–24). This “marriage supper of the Lamb” was anticipated in the predictions of a messianic banquet in Isa. 25:6–8; Matt. 22:1–14; 25:10; 26:29. John is twice reprimanded (“**You must not do that!**”) for attempting to worship the angel (cf. Rev. 22:8–9). Instead, John is commanded to **worship God** alone, in dramatic confirmation of the deity of Jesus, the Lamb who is rightly worshiped (cf. 5:8–14).

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Share the following things coming up in the life of the church:*

**Summer Studies:** [ Discuss your group's plans for winding down for the year ] As our community groups wrap for 2018-2019 let's not give up meeting together but rather take this opportunity to switch it up and try one of our various *Summer Studies!* There are men's Proverbs groups, women's Bible studies, a group for mom's and daughters and *more!* Check them out online: <https://newcitycincy.churchcenter.com/groups/summer-studies>

**Intro to New City | Saturday, June 1st 8a- Noon:** Our next Intro to New City class is coming up in June! Intro to New City is a seminar designed to help you get to know the church a little better: hear the story of the church's origins, our Vision, Values, Beliefs, and Philosophy of ministry, some things that are distinctive about New City, etc. It also provides a basic framework for understanding the gospel, and the church's role in God's plan of redemption.

Intro to New City is a pre-requisite to membership at New City, however, attending the seminar does not commit you to membership. If you need childcare for the class we will be glad to provide it. \*\*The REGISTRATION DEADLINE for adults and children is May 27th.

**Missional Motherhood Event | Saturday June 8th 9 – 1130a:** Join moms with children of all ages including expecting mothers, for breakfast and connections. This topic is focused on renewing our minds in Christ and touching on some common emotional struggles of motherhood; including Abby Morwood's story with Perinatal distress. Come learn, engage with others, and be encouraged! There is nothing to prepare or read prior. Childcare IS Provided if needed, please RSVP May 31. (Questions? Contact [nancyrosemusser@gmail.com](mailto:nancyrosemusser@gmail.com))

## ENGAGE (15-20 minutes)

Real Biblical community involves people "doing life together." As much as we can, we want to create an atmosphere where people get to know one another, and feel comfortable sharing the ups, downs, and in-betweens of life. So take some time for people to get acquainted. A possible icebreaker question:

- What's the best party or celebration you've ever been to? What made it so great?
- Or, Share a high and a low from the previous week. Or, rate your week 1-10. Or, make up one of your own.

## REFLECTION AND STUDY (30-35 MINUTES)

### *Read Revelation 19:1-10*

- 1.) Verse 1 begins “After this...,” referencing to the fall of Babylon in chapter 18. This highlights the ongoing theme in the Bible of the struggle between good and evil. Why are the people in verses 1-5 rejoicing?
- 2.) What do you learn about worship from this passage? Is there anything about this future heavenly worship that ought to inform our worship now? How can you grow in your worship life?
- 3.) “The great prostitute” in verse 2 is also a reference to the city of man opposed to the city of God. Why do you think John uses the image of prostitution or unfaithfulness to describe human evil?
- 4.) How does the Bride get ready for the “marriage of the Lamb?” What does the fine linen represent? How does this point us to the work of Christ?
- 5.) Why is the Lord’s Supper such a significant part of Christian worship? How does Revelation 19 help make this experience more meaningful for you?
- 6.) How can the hospitality of God shape us for hospitality with others? Who can you have over or ask out for a meal?

**Spiritual Formation:** On Sunday Josh said, “If you have a passion for Jesus and regularly eat meals with people, you will have an impact. As you eat with Christians, you’ll build community. As you eat with non-Christians, you’ll create opportunities to share your life and the gospel. Consider this spiritual practice over the next few weeks. *Make a hospitality plan. Brainstorm a list of people to invite out for lunch, or to have over for dinner. Think about neighbors, friends, co-workers, someone new at church. And then take action on this. Try and do one or two of these meals before the end of May.*

## PRAYER (15 minutes)

Break into men and women for prayer. Share prayer requests and pray for one another. Pray especially areas where you long for God to make things right in your life, or the lives of neighbors, co-workers, family, or friends.