

GOD'S VICTORY

SESSION 8



SMALL GROUP SERIES

FOUNDATIONS

THE SALVATION ARMY - USA EAST

“ON THE HEAD OF CHRIST ARE MANY CROWNS. HE WEARS THE CROWN OF VICTORY; HE WEARS THE CROWN OF SOVEREIGNTY; HE WEARS THE CROWN OF CREATION; HE WEARS THE CROWN OF PROVIDENCE; HE WEARS THE CROWN OF GRACE; HE WEARS THE CROWN OF GLORY - FOR EVERY ONE OF HIS GLORIFIED PEOPLE OWES HIS HONOR, HAPPINESS, AND BLESSEDNESS TO HIM.”

~ JAMES AUGHEY

GOD'S VICTORY

Over the last seven weeks you have examined the foundations of our faith. In the final session of this study you will look at the end times as described in scripture. This topic is one that is often debated, confusing to many of us, and has been used as a fear tactic in the past. As you watch together I hope it generates discussion, clarifies a few things and provides hope instead of uneasiness.

Opening Questions

- What do you know or understand about the end times of the world?

Watch the DVD

Eschatology

1. Eschatology is the study of the _____.
2. Millennial means the thousand-year reign of _____.

The eleventh doctrine of The Salvation Army says, "We believe in the immortality of the soul; in the resurrection of the body; in the general judgement at the end of the world; in the eternal happiness of the righteous; and in the endless punishment of the wicked."

3. The disciples ask Jesus what are the signs of the times?

Daniel 9:24-27

²⁴ "Seventy weeks are decreed about your people and your holy city, to finish the transgression, to put an end to sin, and to atone for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal both vision and prophet, and to anoint a most holy place. ²⁵ Know therefore and understand that from the going out of the word to restore and build Jerusalem to the coming of an anointed one, a prince, there shall be seven weeks. Then for sixty-two weeks it shall be built again[c] with squares and moat, but in a troubled time. ²⁶ And after the sixty-two weeks, an anointed one shall be cut off and shall have nothing. And the people of the prince who is to come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. Its[d] end shall come with a flood, and to the end there shall be war. Desolations are decreed. ²⁷ And he shall make a strong covenant with many for one week, and for half of the week he shall put an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall come one who makes desolate, until the decreed end is poured out on the desolator."

Group Activity

Let's take a couple of minutes now so that you can share with your neighbor your understanding of the end times and they can share with you their understanding. While sharing, I would also like you to write down some terms that you both use concerning the end times. It will be interesting to see if we all use the same words with the same understandings. You may use the following portions of Scripture as a guide to your discussion:

Matthew 24

Luke 21

Mark 13

GOD'S VICTORY

We obviously have some shared understandings from the terminology we have used to describe the end times. We must remember though, that we do not know the time of Christ's return now should we try to figure it out. Likewise, we do not know the events that will bring about Christ's return and what will necessarily be involved.

Terms Surrounding the End Times:

Rapture

Tribulation

7 years divided in half with the first half peaceful, second half chaotic
Pre-tribulation vs. Mid-tribulation vs. Post-tribulation rapture

Second Advent

Christ coming to earth and touching down - not just appearing in the sky

Millenium

Thousand year reign of Christ

Final Judgment

Whoever is in the Lamb's book of life will be saved

New Heaven & New Earth

God is at the center and life is found in Him in perfect relationship

SA Distinctives

1. Are there things that set us apart? There are obvious outward things like the _____.

The Salvation Army & Service

2. We would rather 'do' than 'be'. We would rather roll up our _____ and get the job done.
3. Our 'S' stands for saved to _____.

The Salvation Army & Evangelism

4. God saved me to _____ . The Apostle Paul told Timothy to go train people and get them to tell others.
5. God's intent was for us to be _____.
If I ignore this I think I have lost the heart of _____ and The Salvation Army's mission.

The Salvation Army & The Sacraments

6. We consider ourselves to be _____ -sacramental not _____ -sacramental.
7. Sacrament has been defined as an outward expression of an _____ experience.

8. Sacraments are the _____, touchable things that teach us a spiritual truth.
9. Most readings regarding the sacraments start with the _____.
10. It all starts with the Old Testament with two specific sacraments _____ and the _____.

In the New Testament we see seven different sacraments:

- | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Water Baptism | 5. Reconciliation (confession) |
| 2. Confirmation (membership) | 6. Marriage |
| 3. Eucharist (communion) | 7. Holy Order (Priesthood) |
| 4. Unction (sick, dying) | |

8. Following the Reformation we see _____ main sacraments found in the Protestant movement.

- * Water Baptism
- * Communion (Lord's supper)
- * Foot Washing

-Even now we are mostly down to the first two sacraments.

Salvationist's Sacramental Life

9. We often take a defensive position when it comes to the sacraments in The Salvation Army; it is because we don't understand it fully, and we have allowed others to _____ it.
10. Can I walk in a baptism without the _____?
11. Can I commune with Christ without the _____ and the _____ - without the elements?

Matthew 3:11

¹¹ I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me will come one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not fit to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

Luke 3:16

¹⁶ John answered them all, "I baptize you with water. But one more powerful than I will come, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire."

Matthew 3:11

¹¹ I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me will come one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not fit to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

Luke 3:16

¹⁶ John answered them all, "I baptize you with water. But one more powerful than I will come, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire."

Application

I challenge you in your group to discuss the last two questions above and to discuss a few others listed below:

- * Is there a deep devotional life that will lead you to the same way towards a daily baptism?
- * How can you be a sacramental Salvationist without the outward expression?

Moving Forward

- * **Party** - Take a week to celebrate together
- * **Reflect on the 8 weeks** - What did you learn? Did your thoughts on a certain topic change?
- * **Discuss Next Steps** - Does this day of the week work well for our group? If not discuss other options. Do we enjoy a video based study? Should we study a book of the bible?
- * **Identify Resources** - What should our group study next?

For some ideas visit: <http://mission.use-salvationarmy.org> and click on Small Groups and Curriculum Options

- * **Reach Out** - Is the size of our group too big/too small?
Are there others we can reach out to invite to our group?