



Group Discussion Guide

Bigger than my Culture

Sunday, January 22, 2012

Read

The book of Revelation was written to the first-century churches in Asia Minor at a time of intense persecution (obstacles!) The overall message of Revelation is to give the church (both then and now) a larger view of what God is doing in our lives and the world around us. The bottom line: Jesus wins. No matter the obstacles we face, God's larger plan for us is not hindered. Read Revelation 21:3-7.

Discuss

If you are a human being, you face obstacles in life. How we face our obstacles says a lot about who we think God is. Share with the group your primary obstacle in life currently, and your perspective on it. (Remember, our tendency is to either minimize our obstacles compared to others', or in the other extreme, to consider our own obstacles way bigger than those of other people. This is an area where comparison is just not helpful – your journey is your own journey. Share your own obstacle and why it's an obstacle *to you*.)

Consider this quote from Tom & Cathy Lewis (who shared their own story Sunday morning): *"God is not changing our circumstances to be what we desire, but instead, God is using our circumstances to change us into the people He desires."* Do you have a sense that God is using your obstacles in life to shape and mold you as a person? If so, how?

The passage we read in Revelation 21 paints a picture of God's overall plan... one day, He will "make all things new" and "wipe away every tear." What difference does this perspective make for you as you face your current obstacles?

Pray

Reserve at least the last 15 minutes of group time to pray for the things that came up during your discussion and any other prayer needs.