



Week Eight – Revelation 14
Community Group Study Guide for the week of April 25, 2021

Suggested Reading: Revelation 14 prior to meeting

Study Revelation 14:1-5, “The Lamb and the 144,000.” Choose some or all of these questions to answer and discuss:

1. What is one song you would like to learn to sing by heart?
2. Who did John see standing before him? ([14:1](#))
3. What did the 144,000 do as John looked on? ([14:3](#))
4. What is said here about the unique spiritual condition of the 144,000? ([14:4-5](#))
5. Why do you think only the 144,000 are able to learn the new song of praise?
6. What does it mean to "follow the Lamb wherever he goes"?
7. What can you do to make yourself more open to follow the Lord wherever He leads you?

Life Application Bible Notes

[14:1ff](#) [Chapter 13](#) described the onslaught of evil that will occur when Satan and his helpers control the world. [Chapter 14](#) gives a glimpse into eternity to show believers what awaits them if they endure. The Lamb is the Messiah. Mount Zion, often another name for Jerusalem, the capital of Israel, is contrasted with the worldly empire. The 144,000 represent believers who have endured persecutions on earth and now are ready to enjoy the eternal benefits and blessings of life with God forever. The three angels contrast the destiny of believers with that of unbelievers.

[14:4](#) These people are true believers whose robes have been washed and made white in Christ's blood ([7:14](#)) through his death ("purchased from among the people on the earth"). In the Old Testament, idolatry was often portrayed as spiritual adultery (see the book of Hosea). Their being "pure as virgins" is best understood symbolically, meaning that they are free from involvement with the pagan world system. To remain spiritually pure means resisting the seductions and idolatries of the present world—power, wealth, and sexual immorality. To do so requires daily application of God's Word, for it has a purifying effect on the mind and heart. It requires great resolution not to give in to these temptations.

Following Christ, the Lamb, "wherever he goes" requires heroic effort to carry out Christ's commission to face oppression and even death if required. Too many shrink back when the work is difficult or the future looks bleak. Join those who take their stand with Christ and against sin.

The "special offering" refers to the act of dedicating the first part of the harvest as holy to God ([Exodus 23:19](#); see also [James 1:18](#)).

Study Revelation 14:6-13, "The Three Angels." Choose some or all of these questions to answer and discuss:

1. What do your friends, family, neighbors or co-workers believe about hell?
2. What did the angel tell the inhabitants of earth to do? Why? ([14:7](#))
3. What would be the consequence of taking the mark of the beast? ([14:9-10](#))
4. What does the future hold for those who do not believe? ([14:10-11](#))
5. What temptations and trials make it difficult to live for Christ in this society?
6. What does it mean to fear God?
7. How can you cultivate faithfulness to Jesus in all you do each day?

Life Application Bible Notes

[14:6, 7](#) Some believe that this is a final, worldwide appeal to all people to recognize the one true God. No one will have the excuse of never hearing God's truth. Others, however, see this as an announcement of judgment rather than as an appeal. The people of the world have had their chance to proclaim their allegiance to God, and now God's great judgment is about to begin. If you are reading this, you have already heard God's truth. You know that God's final judgment will not be put off forever. Have you joyfully received the everlasting Good News? Have you confessed your sins and trusted in Christ to save you? If so, you have nothing to fear from God's judgment. The Judge of all the earth is your Savior!

[14:8](#) Babylon was the name of both an evil city and an immoral empire, a world center for idol worship. Babylon ransacked Jerusalem and carried the people of Judah into captivity (see [2 Kings 25](#) and [2 Chronicles 36](#)). Just as Babylon was the Jews' worst enemy, the Roman Empire was the worst enemy of the early Christians. John, who probably did not dare speak against Rome openly, applied the name *Babylon* to this enemy of God's people (Rome)—and, by extension, to all God's enemies of all times.

[14:9-11](#) Those who worship the beast, accept his mark, and operate according to his world economic system will ultimately face God's judgment. Our world values money, power, and pleasure over God's leadership. To get what the world values, many people deny God and violate Christian principles. Thus, they must drink of the wine of God's anger (see [Psalm 75](#); [Isaiah 51:17](#)).

[14:11](#) The ultimate result of sin is unending separation from God. Because human beings are created in God's image with an inborn thirst for fellowship with him, separation from God will be the ultimate torment and misery. Sin always brings misery, but in this life we can choose to repent and restore our relationship with God. In eternity there will no longer be opportunity for repentance. If in this life we choose to be independent of God, in the next life we will be separated from him forever. Nobody is forced to choose eternal separation from God, and nobody suffers this fate by accident. Jesus invites all of us to open the door of our heart to him ([3:20](#)). If we do this, we will enjoy everlasting fellowship with him.

[14:12](#) This news about God's ultimate triumph should encourage God's people to remain faithful through every trial and persecution. They can do this, God promises, by trusting in Jesus and obeying the commands found in his Word. The secret to enduring, therefore, is trust and obedience. Trust God to give you patience to endure even the small trials you face daily; obey him even when obedience is unattractive or dangerous.

[14:13](#) While it is true that money, fame, and belongings can't be taken with us from this life, God's people *can* produce fruit that survives even death. God will remember our love, kindness, and faithfulness, and those who accept Christ through our witness will join us in the new earth. Be sure that your values are in line with God's values, and decide today to produce fruit that lasts forever.

Study Revelation 14:14-20, "The Harvest of the Earth." Choose some or all of these questions to answer and discuss:

1. What do you think is the average person's view of heaven?
2. What did the angel from the heavenly temple tell the other angel to do? Why? ([14:15](#))
3. What instructions did the angel give to the one with the "sharp sickle"? ([14:18](#))
4. What happened to the grapes that were gathered by the reaping angel? ([14:19-20](#))
5. What does this passage tell us about God?
6. How do we know that God takes our sin seriously?
7. In what way can you express your gratitude to God for sparing you from His wrath?

Life Application Bible Notes

[14:14-16](#) This is an image of judgment: Christ is separating the faithful from the unfaithful like a farmer harvesting his crops. This is a time of joy for the Christians who have been persecuted and martyred—they will receive their long-awaited reward. Christians should not fear the Last Judgment. Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, those who listen to my message and believe in God who sent me have eternal life. They will never be condemned for their sins, but they have already passed from death into life" ([John 5:24](#)).

[14:19](#) A winepress was a large vat or trough where grapes were collected and then crushed. The juice flowed out of a duct that led into a large holding vat. The winepress is often used in the Bible as a symbol of God's wrath and judgment against sin ([Isaiah 63:3-6](#); [Lamentations 1:15](#); [Joel 3:12, 13](#)). The distance of 180 miles is approximately the north-south length of Palestine.

To those unaccustomed to vivid descriptions of God's anger in judgement, these are disturbing images. People dislike the idea of other people, even evil ones, being trampled like grapes. The depth and length of the blood flow provides a sickening scene of the immensity of God's judgment. But unless we face the necessity of God's judgment, we will never see our desperate need for his mercy. A god with only a grandfatherly kindness would not inspire our repentance, obedience, or worship. God has promised a harsh harvest for those who reject him. Those who know God well enough to fear his wrath know God well enough to desire his grace. The crushing wrath of God is coming. Blessed are those who have had their sins forgiven, and blessed are those who lead others to God's mercy.