

The Sealed People of God



Collegiate Quarterly

Teacher's Guide

Surveying the Source

Rev. 7:1–14; 14:1–5

Plotting the Course

The students will:

► Understand the sealing of God's people as the special recognition God places upon His people right before Jesus returns.

► Determine to reflect the pure and undefiled character of Christ.

► Manifest unwavering loyalty to God and find their highest satisfaction and glory in offering glory and praise to God.

Preparing to Lead

As a prophetic people we live in eager anticipation of the soon return of Jesus Christ. The question is, "Do you want to be ready to receive the seal of God?" This is not something that we can earn. Rather, it is something that we receive as a gift of God—the character of Christ reproduced in His people. God's people understand

His character. They have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and therefore are eager to see Him come again. Those who truly love Jesus don't have to worry whether or not they have the seal of God, but instead, it is something that becomes a natural part of their Christian experience as they grow ever closer to Christ.

Getting Started

A. Discuss why the 144,000 is a symbolic number. Can you think of important symbols in the Bible? This symbol represents the twelve tribes of Israel with the number 12,000 multiplied by twelve. Jesus has room for each and every person who desires to be saved.

B. Imagine what it will be like to be in heaven worshipping God. Discuss as a group what it will be to be in the very presence of God in the heavenly throne room. What part of this heavenly worship are looking forward to the most?

Materials

Reproducible Activity, Bibles, canning jar and lid

Delving Into the Word

A. Read 2 Pet. 3:13 and discuss what it means to live in place “where righteousness dwells.” What does this mean? Study Jer. 23:6 and the connection between heaven and “The Lord Our Righteousness.” In what ways can we “pursue righteousness” (1 Tim. 6:11)? Discuss what living in righteousness will be like in heaven.

B. Before it gets better, it is going to get worse. Yet Rev. 7:1–3 assures us that God is still in control. After all it is God who is restraining the winds of strife. Discuss how the Bible uses winds to describe disaster (e.g., Ezek. 5:12). In what ways is God’s wrath poured out? Discuss how God has been patient with you. Why do you think God is patient with humanity holding back the winds of strife? When will this patience end?

Discussing the Ideas

1. Have you ever tried sealing something? Perhaps it was some canned fruit or applesauce. Typically, the sealing process involves going under intense heat and pressure. In what ways does God refine us as part of the sealing process?

2. Joseph Bates, wrote a book titled *The Seal of the Living God* in which he suggested, for the first time, that those who keep the seventh day Sabbath at the end of time were those who are sealed by God. How can the seventh day Sabbath be evidence of those who “keep God’s commandments”?

3. Reflect upon the symbol of “the Lamb of God” which appears repeatedly throughout the Bible as a symbol for Jesus. In Revelation John sees the Lamb and those who follow Him. How is the lamb a part of the sanctuary symbolism of sacrifices, and how does this connect

with the overall message of salvation as expressed in the book of Revelation?

4. Those who are sealed have the Father’s name written on their foreheads. What do you think this means? In Bible times a name held deep significance. What do you think your new name will be when you receive a new name in heaven?

5. God’s people will have a white robe (Rev. 6:11). White consistently symbolizes purity. This is a not something that can be achieved by oneself, but only through the cleansing work of Jesus Christ (Rev. 7:14). It also mentions that they have gone through great tribulation. Can you think of examples of those who have given their lives or gone through great tribulation for Jesus Christ? What about Christians today who are persecuted?

Closing the Activity

The focus of this lesson is to emphasize the sealing work of God. Each person will decide their fate by the everyday decisions that they make. This is their character. Yet such actions must come out of a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. It is only through the surrendered heart that we can experience conversion. The good news is that those who are sealed by God don’t have to be afraid of these end-

time events. Instead they can celebrate and revel knowing that it is Jesus Christ who will take care of them, and has something much better in store for them in heaven. Before finishing the class be sure to take some time to discuss how wonderful heaven will be to be able to spend all eternity worshipping our loving Lord and Savior, Jesus.

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If you have some canning jars, bring one to class. Otherwise find some other canned good or a bottle of juice or water. Open it in class. Those who are sealed live under pressure. When they are “canned” or “bottled” they have to be purified. Any contaminant or germs will spoil the product from being able to stay fresh. Pass around the canned good in the class as you discuss the sealing process.



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