



Small group discussion questions May 2017

Chapter & verse – Erna Stevenson (page 18)

Read Revelation 21:22-22:5 followed by Erna Stevenson’s article.

1. If Christian Aid’s manifesto summary is ‘We believe in life before death’, what manifesto summary would you choose for yourself or your church?’
2. How does Erna sum up the meaning of Easter in the first paragraph of ‘Chapter & verse’, and what does this have to do with the work of organisations like Christian Aid?
3. In paragraph four, Erna mentions some ways in which New Jerusalem is ‘an inverted mirror image of how things are in our 21st-century world’. Looking at the passage in Revelation, can you see others?
4. In paragraph six, Erna suggests that Revelation’s words about money in New Jerusalem speak to us. What might they say?
5. Christ, says Erna in paragraph seven, ‘is the best model of how to feel compassion for poor and marginalised people’. What stories can you think of from the Gospels that exemplify this? What model does Jesus give us in these stories?
6. Do you think that the New Jerusalem of Revelation is a prediction of the future, or is it talking about the here and now?
7. Erna ends by saying that Christian hope involves both vision and action. What action is demanded of us?

For further reflection: ‘The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, the lion shall eat straw like the ox; but the serpent – its food shall be dust! They shall not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, says the Lord.’ Isaiah 65:25

Prayer: Father, you have placed before us a vision of a different way for the world to be. We confess that we are one reason the world is not as it should be, but we pray that your resurrection will be at work within us and within our world, bringing the New Jerusalem onto the earth. Amen.

