

Bible Study Lesson: “Blessed Hope and the Lamb’s Shepherd Care”

Theme

God’s blessing is not escape from suffering but belonging to the Lamb. God gathers a worldwide redeemed people, calls them his children, shepherds them through tears, and leads them into the joy of his kingdom.

Scripture Focus

- Revelation 7:9–17
- Psalm 34:1–10, 22
- 1 John 3:1–3
- Matthew 5:1–12

Big Idea

The blessed life is life with God through Jesus, the Lamb: worshiping now with God’s worldwide family, living as God’s beloved children in hopeful purity, and trusting the Lamb to shepherd us through suffering into the day when God wipes away every tear.

Summary

Revelation 7 gives us a vision of the redeemed—an uncountable multitude from every nation—standing before the throne and worshiping the Lamb. Their white robes are washed in the Lamb’s blood, and the Lamb becomes their Shepherd, leading them to living water and wiping every tear. Psalm 34 invites us to praise God in the middle of trouble and to “taste and see” that the Lord is good; those who take refuge in him are not condemned. First John 3:1–3 grounds our identity in the Father’s love: we are already God’s children, and our future likeness to Christ gives us a hope that purifies us now. Matthew 5:1–12 redefines blessing through the Beatitudes: the kingdom belongs not to the self-sufficient and comfortable, but to the poor in spirit, the mourning, the meek, the merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemakers, and the persecuted. Together these passages call us to worship, hope, holiness, and patient trust in the Shepherd who will bring us home.

Key Points

1. Salvation is centered on God and the Lamb—and it is for every nation.

Revelation 7:9–10 shows a countless multitude from every nation, tribe, people, and language. Worship is diverse, united, and directed to God and to the Lamb. The church's life should anticipate that heavenly reality.

2. The Lamb is also the Shepherd who heals.

Revelation 7:14–17 says the redeemed have washed their robes in the Lamb's blood. Their suffering was real, but so is God's comfort. The Lamb leads them to springs of living water, and God wipes every tear. Biblical hope does not deny grief; it promises that grief will not have the final word.

3. Praise and testimony are learned in the middle of trouble.

Psalms 34 calls God's people to bless the Lord at all times, to boast in him, to seek him, and to taste and see his goodness. Psalm 22 promises that those who take refuge in God are redeemed and not condemned. Praise is not pretending everything is fine; it is turning toward the God who is good.

4. Grace gives us a new identity: children of God.

First John 3:1–3 says, "See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God." Our present identity is secure, and our future is promised: we will be like Christ. This hope produces purification—not fearful perfectionism, but grace-driven growth in holiness.

5. Jesus redefines what it means to be blessed.

In Matthew 5:1–12, Jesus pronounces blessing on the poor in spirit, the mourning, the meek, the hungry for righteousness, the merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemakers, and the persecuted. Kingdom blessing is not the same as worldly success or comfort. It is life under the rule of King Jesus, now and forever.

Questions

Revelation 7:9–17

1. What stands out to you in this vision of the multitude before the throne?

2. What does it mean that the worshipers come from "every nation, tribe, people, and language"?

3. Why is it significant that their robes are washed in the Lamb's blood rather than made clean by their own effort?
4. Where in your life do you most need to hear that the Lamb is your Shepherd and that God will wipe away tears?

Psalm 34:1–10, 22

1. What makes praise easy for you? What makes it hard?
2. What does it mean practically to “taste and see that the LORD is good”?
3. How have you experienced God as a refuge in a difficult season?
4. How does verse 22—that those who take refuge in God are redeemed and not condemned—shape the way you see yourself and others?

1 John 3:1–3

1. How does the Father's love in calling us his children affect your daily identity?
2. What difference does it make that we are “now” children of God, even though our future is not fully revealed?
3. What does it mean that this hope “purifies” us? How is that different from trying to earn God's love?
4. Where might you be tempted to find your identity in something other than being God's child?

Matthew 5:1–12

1. Which beatitude feels most foreign to the way our world defines a blessed or successful life?
2. Which beatitude describes your current season—or the season you are praying toward?
3. How can our small group embody the Beatitudes together—especially mercy, purity of heart, and peacemaking?
4. How does Jesus' promise of future reward help us endure present grief or persecution?

Connecting the Passages

1. How do Revelation 7 and Matthew 5 together shape a Christian understanding of blessing?
2. How does 1 John 3:1–3 help us live with hope while we wait for Revelation 7:17 to be fully true?
3. What would it look like to live this week as someone who is “blessed” even while mourning or struggling?

Application

- Personal reflection: Name one “tear” you are carrying and one “taste” of God’s goodness you have experienced. Bring both to God in prayer.
- Worship practice: Use Psalm 34:1–3 as a daily prayer of praise this week—even when feelings are mixed.
- Identity practice: Memorize 1 John 3:1 or Revelation 7:17. Let your identity as God’s child shape one decision this week.
- Kingdom practice: Choose one beatitude to live intentionally—e.g., show mercy to someone hurting, make peace in a strained relationship, or pursue purity of heart in a specific area.
- Group practice: Pray for persecuted believers and for the church’s witness across nations. As a group, look for one way to welcome someone from a different background or season of life.
- Weekly challenge: Each day read Psalm 34:8 and ask, “Where did I taste God’s goodness today?” Then thank him and share it with one person.

Closing Prayer

Lamb of God, you are our Shepherd. Thank you for gathering a people from every nation, for calling us your children, and for leading us through tears toward living water. Teach us to praise you in trouble, to live in hopeful purity, and to embody the blessed life of your kingdom. Wipe away our tears in your time, and keep our eyes on the day when we will see you as you are. Amen.

Leader Notes

- Read each passage aloud slowly. Revelation 7 can be read in two parts: verses 9–12 (worship) and 13–17 (comfort).
- Be sensitive to grieving or suffering members. Do not rush to fix tears; let Revelation 7:17 be a promise, not a dismissal of pain.
- Avoid turning the Beatitudes into a checklist of works. They describe kingdom life and blessing under Jesus' grace.
- In 1 John, clarify that “purify” means hopeful, grace-filled growth, not sinless perfection.
- Keep the focus on the Lamb: Christian hope, identity, holiness, and comfort all flow from Jesus.