

St John's Meads – Home Groups

God Completes: Evil Defeated

 **Review:** A key component in the vision of Revelation is victory over evil. Throughout the Mission of God we have been challenged by man's propensity to sin and follow his/her own course. Finally, the vision is completed where Satan, sin and death are no more and we are free to be one with God. The Cross is the beginning of Satan's end. This gives us the chance to reflect on Christ's glory but also our own ammunition in the battle with sin.

 **Discuss:**

- What does evil mean to you? How is it manifest in the world, and in us?
- Revelation presents a picture of a new creation where all evil has been overcome. Part of the vision is the doom of Satan (20:7-10). Death is overcome in 20:14. In 21:4 there will be 'no more death or mourning or crying or pain'. This is not a victory we could win on our own but one that has been won by Jesus Christ for us. What does it tell us about God? What are the consequences of his victory?
- The cross is our guarantee of that victory. How does that give us confidence in our personal battle with sin?
- How does the vision of a creation free from suffering make you feel? Read 21:1-4 and note the things you find most heartening.

 **Reflection**

Spend the last few minutes reflecting on the words of this Franciscan Benediction:

May God bless you with discomfort at easy answers, half-truths, and superficial relationships so that you may live deep within your heart.

May God bless you with anger at injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people, So that you may work for justice, freedom and peace.

May God bless you with tears to shed for those who suffer pain, rejection, hunger and war, so that you may reach out your hand to comfort them and to turn their pain into joy.

May God bless you with enough foolishness to believe that you can make a difference in the world, So that you can do what others claim cannot be done To bring justice and kindness to all our children and the poor."

 **Pray :** Lord, we thank you that you are an all-powerful God who reigns over the world and sin. We thank you for your victory and the Cross and we pray that we will be strengthened in our own battles to follow your will, and not our own, in all we attempt. Amen