



**theme:** End Times #3 – From Every Nation  
**materials:** Map, sticky notes, pens, bibles

This month the cells will all focus on “End Times”. What does Scripture mean by End Times? Can we know anything about the end of the world for sure? How much of what we think about the End Times come from Scripture, and how much from other popular sources?

## welcome

How far back do you know your ancestry? Which nations or ethnic groups are represented in the room? Share with each other where you each have “come from”, and see how much (potentially surprising) diversity there is in your cell.

## interact

Read out Psalm 24. Then get a map that you can pray over. Mark down on the map with sticky notes where each person has “come from” in your cell. Thank God for the work He is doing in those areas. Are there any areas on the map that are not at all covered by your cell? Pray for those, and declare that God is King over all those areas as well, and pray for the believers there.

## read

Read Revelation 7:9-17.

Who is this great crowd worshipping God?

Why do you think the writer goes out of his way to mention that they are from every nation, tribe, people and language?

A wide diversity seems to be the reality for the people of God in the end times, but is this the reality of most Churches today in your experience? If not, why do you think that is?

Does there need to be more diversity in individual Churches, or is it ok to have Churches of predominantly one ethnic group?

In order for there to be worshippers from every nation, tribe people, and language, there would presumably need to be missions around the world. Have you ever been involved in a mission to another culture? What was it like?

It has been claimed that missions are all about a dominant culture imposing its values on other cultures. How can we ensure that the missions we are involved with are not like that?

What is the good news, end times message in this passage that we can tell around the world?

Do you think the gospel has to be preached to every nation, tribe, people and language before the end will come?

Why does this passage, and others particularly in Revelation, put such a high emphasis on martyrdom?

Is martyrdom a special call, or should every Christian be prepared to die for Christ?

## think

What are the predominant nations and cultures represented in your neighbourhood? Is your cell very representative of these cultures? Do some research as a cell group to discover the ethnic and cultural diversity that exists in your community. Are there some new languages you might need to learn?



## live & pray

Learn some words in a new language this week. See if you can even get someone in your neighbourhood to help you translate a prayer into a different language, one that you can share next week in cell.

## useful resources

Book: *Praying Through the 100 Gateway Cities of the 10/40 Window*, by Wagner, Peters, and Wilson.  
Online Book: *In Darkest India*, by Booth-Tucker.  
Can be found at: <http://www.fullbooks.com/Darkest-India1.html>

## leader's guide

This crowd could be the great crowd of martyrs mentioned in Rev. 6:9, or could be the 144,000 mentioned at the beginning of Chapter 7 (a symbolic number presumably representing a lot more). At any rate, the crowd is identified further on in the chapter as the ones who died in the great tribulation, and have their robes washed in the blood of the lamb, which, for some reason, made them white (which represented purity).

These are martyrs for Christ from every nation, and they have been made pure and are worshipping God day and night before His throne.

The writer wants to point out the worldwide call of Christianity – it was not limited to one nation or race. See Isaiah 49:6 for how God was wanting to do this through Israel as well.

There are many healthy Churches that are mainly composed of one ethnic group for one reason or another. Sometimes this is unavoidable (if your community has only one ethnic group, for instance), but should not really be the default, it seems. There is something about the Kingdom of God that is meant to transcend culture, language, and race, and the Church needs to better model this to the world.

The Salvation Army's early mission work in India was a good example of how to engage with a culture without trying to dominate it. They adopted Indian dress, food, culture and even names in order to show love and humility. Mission must be engaged incarnationally (taking on "the flesh" of the culture), and with great humility. The good news in this passage is really found in verses 14b-17. This is really about the greatest news imaginable. There seems to be an imperative for every people group on earth to hear the message of Christ before the end. Not that this in itself will bring about the end – no one can force God's hand, and the end of time is entirely in his keeping. The blood of martyrs – those who make the sacrifice of their lives for Christ – is precious to God (Psalm 116:15). There is a general expectation in Scripture that most true followers of God risk a violent death. Christ predicted that his followers would get the same treatment he would get, and Revelation follows in that very same line.