

## INTRO

The passage that Anya focused on in her sermon today was Revelation 7:9-17.

Read Revelation 7:9-17 out loud together

**What stands out to you in this passage?**

**What sort of images and pictures does it give you of the future?**

## IDEA 1

I wonder how much we think of this in the “*someday*” category (multiethnic church)? Yay, it will be great when that happens someday! This is a wonderful vision of the future diversity of God’s people that we can look forward to. And we leave it at that. But does God’s Revelation 7 vision have relevance for churches here and now? Does God want churches to grow in ethnic diversity in the present? Based on Matthew 6:10, I want to propose to us that the vision in *Revelation 7* has all the relevance in the world for the church here and now. Yes, it is a wonderful future hope, but it’s also a present calling.

**What are some of the challenges and benefits of a multiethnic community?**

**Why is it difficult to imagine a multiethnic church in our present?**

**Referencing Anya’s question, “Does God’s Revelation 7 vision have relevance for churches here and now? Does God want churches to grow in ethnic diversity in the present?”**

**How can the church strive for this multiethnic community here and now?**

## IDEA 2

When we live, serve, and worship with people from ethnic and cultural backgrounds different from our own, we experience the kingdom of God more fully on earth as it is in heaven and display it more fully on earth as it is in heaven. In this way, the multiethnic church is a *foretaste* and a *sign* of God's kingdom.

**What does it mean that the multiethnic church is a foretaste and a sign of God's Kingdom?**

**How do you believe SAC is working toward this? What practices/steps could SAC take to cultivate this vision further?**

## EXPERIENCING GOD TOGETHER

Take time to listen to the Holy Spirit and pray together.

As you pray and discern together, think of the ways your community can practice the three intentional steps Anya included:

- **Develop cross-cultural relationships**
- **Listen to people from ethnic minorities**
- **Learn to be comfortable with being uncomfortable**

As you discuss, allow your group to consider what this could look like in your community.

## PRACTICE THIS WEEK

As you heard, Anya's three intentional steps include focusing on "learning to be comfortable with being uncomfortable." One way you could do this is by attending the International Prayer Gathering service.

**IPG is a Sunday gathering where refugees, immigrants, friends from Salem & all over the world meet together. At IPG, we share a meal, learn from scripture, worship & pray in multiple languages. That meets from 4:00 to 7:00 pm on Sunday evenings.**