



Color-full
October 3, 2022
Revelation 7:9-17

Connect:

- How did your family talk about _____ people? (*fill in the blank with groups of people your conversation partners choose to name. Examples include: rich, poor, black, white, country, urban, men, women, etc.*).

Engage

- Read **Revelation 7:9-17**. The Book of Revelation is among the most misunderstood pieces of literature in history. What is your experience with the Book, if any at all? How were you taught to interpret it? How has your understanding of the book shifted over time?
- Within the specific passage selected for today, what piece jumps out to you upon a first read? Why?
- While many in society have come to say, “*I don’t see color*” as a way of suggesting they don’t put a value one way or another on the color of one’s skin, this passage helps us to imagine that color and ethnicity is to be seen. “*I looked*” the passage says. “*I saw*” and what was seen? A range of colors and hues of humanity. Perhaps we are not meant to be “*color blind*” as some say in this same context, but rather to see color and race and ethnicity for the unique beauty that it is. What do you think?
- As Broadway’s Action Team #1 is focused on growing a multi-racial/multi-ethnic congregation, it is not for the sake of diversity as an end-goal. Diversity as an end-goal is designed to get different kinds of people in the same room but doesn’t suggest that interaction is encouraged – just color-full pictures for websites and marketing. Instead, inspired by the likes of this passage and others, we imagine the multi-diverse congregation as God’s desire for us to create a new family – where we invest in each others lives, broadening our understanding of the image of God as found in the unique lives of one another. Discuss this idea as a group. What things might make this possible at Broadway?
- Through the incarnation, God, in Jesus, leaves heaven, enters into a new world, and allows himself to be formed by that particular world (*ancient middle east culture as it were*). In the creation of a new Christian family, incarnational listening is foundational. In doing so, we are called to leave our world of comfort, enter into the world with someone else, and allow our understanding to be formed by that new world with them. What are your experiences with this type of listening? How did you grow by doing so?

Next Steps:

- Find ways to engage and enjoy persons of other races and cultures than your own. See what you learn about yourself in the process? Note what you learn about God, knowing that all people are made in God’s image.

Pray:

- “*In the incarnation of Jesus, you took a major risk to be vulnerable among us, O God; to understand and live in a new culture, learn from it, through it, and to be shaped by it as well. Help us to create such a family as a Church and help us grow to new heights of hope and understanding. Amen.*”