



Sermon Discussion Curriculum - Week 3

Rev. 2:8-11; 3:7-13 – Jan. 17, 2021

Helpful Resources for Studying Revelation

Revelation for You by Tim Chester – <https://bit.ly/RevForYou>

The BibleProject Videos – Rev. 1-11: <https://bit.ly/Rev1-11> Rev. 12-22: <https://bit.ly/Rev12-22>

Revelation: The Triumph of God – <https://bit.ly/TriumphOfGod>

Revelation: by William Subash – *RightNow Media* – <https://bit.ly/williamsbush>

Admittedly, Revelation can be an intimidating book to study. As you continue this endeavor, allow God to speak to you through his written Word.

The goal of this time is to have quality connection and time together. Choose questions from Know, Grow and Show that will best help your group discuss the passage and take their next steps of faith. Don't feel like you have to use all of the questions. Feel free to add your own too! We are praying for you as you lead your D-Group this week!



KNOW:

- Think about some of your favorite stories or movies that portray great acts of human heroism (LOTR, Selma, Braveheart, Hidden Figures). Why are these stories inspiring to us?
- Spiritual growth often occurs in our lives during times of suffering or in the hard seasons of life. Would you be willing to share about a hard season in your life? What did you learn about God and his character in those hard moments?
- What Scriptures do you go to during difficult times? Take a few minutes to encourage one another with your favorite verses or passages. Share how these truths encourage you in hard times.
- How have the last few months of COVID, political tension, racial tension, natural disasters, and everything else that has come in the last year caused you to function in fear or dread? If you are willing, share those things with your group.



GROW:

- Read Rev. 2:8-11 and 3:7-13. Both churches are facing extreme persecution. How would Jesus's descriptions of himself have been an encouragement to them? What other words of encouragement and hope does He offer to them?
- The BibleProject has a phrase they use to describe the purpose of the Bible, "One story that leads to Jesus." Where and how do you see Jesus in these passages? What do you learn about his character? How would this motivate those reading this letter to press on?
- List the things you find in these two passages that God promises to the believers who remain faithful. How do these things encourage you to remain faithful today?
- Jesus calls the saints in Smyrna and Philadelphia to remain faithful in the midst of suffering. Read Romans 5:1-5. What does Paul tell us will be the result of suffering for the sake of Christ?
- Only the letters to Smyrna and Philadelphia mention no problem and give no warning. What role does affirmation play in helping Christians who are under spiritual pressure?
- As you read Rev. 3:7-13, what symbols does the author mention? What do each of these symbols represent? How does it encourage you to know that Jesus has authority over both the life we live now and the life that is yet to come?



SHOW:

- In Rev. 2:1-7, we were challenged to remember our first love – Jesus. How does remembering, repenting, and returning to Jesus help us in times of suffering and opposition? How can you love Jesus more this week?
- Many of our brothers and sisters around the world face severe physical persecution for their faith in Jesus. Spend a few minutes as a group and pray for them to be strengthened through the power of the Holy Spirit and to remain faithful to Jesus. During this time, remember to also pray for the global mission partner that your group has adopted.
- Revelation 2:11 encourages the believers to "listen to what the Spirit says to the churches." What would it look like for you to be more attentive to the Holy Spirit? How can you practice this listening skill on a regular basis?
- Are you under pressure to compromise your beliefs in order to fit in, or be accepted in your family, workplace, or elsewhere? How do these verses remind you that God is in control even when it doesn't feel like it? Pray with your D-Group that God will give you the strength to continue in the truth and hope of Jesus.
- Take time to worship the One "who died and came to life" (through prayer, song, serving, giving, reading of Psalms, etc.).