



A Worship Discussion Guide for Individuals, Groups & Families for the week of January 5, 2025

Read the Bible passage aloud in your group meeting. This is a worship discussion guide, and our reflections and applications are grounded in Scripture. You do not need to work through the whole guide. Decide which points would be most helpful for your meeting, and use them as a starting point for your time together.

Warm Up

- What comes to mind when you think of the New Testament Book of Revelation?

Revelation 1:1-8

The Revelation of Jesus Christ

¹The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show to his servants the things that must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John, ²who bore witness to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, even to all that he saw. ³Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear, and who keep what is written in it, for the time is near.

- Why did God give this revelation?
- What responses does God intend for the recipients of this letter?

⁴John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, ⁵and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood ⁶and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. ⁷Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. Even so. Amen. ⁸"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."

- John begins the letter with a hymn of praise to Jesus (5-6) and a prophesy (7-8) What is revealed about God in these verses?
- What is revealed about people?

Jesus Christ tells us that "by His blood He has made us a kingdom, priests to His God and Father" (6). In the Old Testament, a priest ministered in two directions. He was granted access to God on behalf of others. He also represented the LORD to His people. Let's think about our priestly ministry as believers:

- Can you share a recent time someone you went to God on behalf of someone else?
- Can you share a recent time you brought God's promises, comfort, or encouragement to someone else?

Revelation is really about hope, and the faithfulness of Jesus to reveal our reason to hope. A Christian virtue which requires a lot of practice!

- Share about a time, big or small, when you lost hope. What were you hoping for? Why?
- What happened in your circumstances and your heart as you lost hope?
- What is one way you trusted Jesus Christ as your Living Hope recently?
- Pray together in response to God's Word. Do you need Jesus to open your eyes? To give you hope? Ask Him for grace. Are you struck by a particular aspect of Christ's beauty, faithfulness, or work? Thank Him and adore Him.

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Questions? Contact Pastor Kevin Greene, kevin@wepc.org

Revelation Overview



Author and Date

Jesus Christ is the divine Author of this “revelation” ([Rev 1:1](#)). He describes coming events to His servant John. John, son of Zebedee, was the “disciple whom Jesus loved” ([John 13:23; 19:26; 20:2; 21:7, 20](#)) who also wrote the Gospel of John and 1, 2 and 3 John. Most scholars believe John recorded these visions while exiled to on the island of Patmos in the mid-90sAD during the persecution of Christians under the Roman emperor Domitian ([Rev 1:9](#)). Revelation is addressed specifically to seven first-century churches in the Roman province of Asia (now western Turkey), but the message is for all churches everywhere.



The Big Picture

The word “revelation” translates the Greek word *apokalypsis*, which means “disclosure” or “unveiling.” Revelation unveils both the spiritual dynamic of the cosmos and the Living Hope we have in Jesus Christ. Jesus reveals the unseen spiritual war in which the Church is engaged: the cosmic conflict between God and His Christ on the one hand, and Satan and his evil allies (both demonic and human) on the other. In this conflict, Jesus the Lamb has already won the decisive victory through his sacrificial death, but his church continues to be assaulted by the dragon, in its death-throes, through persecution (the beast), deceptive heresy (the false prophet), and the allure of material affluence and cultural approval (the prostitute). By revealing the spiritual realities behind the church’s trials and temptations, and by affirming the certainty of Christ’s triumph in the new heaven and earth, the visions of Revelation fortify believers to endure this suffering of this present world with hope.