



Series: Revelation—a book of hope

The Hope of the Church

February 23, 2020



ENGAGE

(A key part of healthy group life is to make sure your group gets to know each other and builds good relationships. The purpose of these first questions is to help your group open up. Please don't feel like you have to ask each question. Once you feel like the group is ready, move onto the "Inspire" section.)

- What is the most difficult trial you have ever faced?

Prayer: Take some time to pray for God to speak to your group through this week's study.

INSPIRE

(Each question has a lot to unpack. Since the group may need time to process each question, don't let silence scare you. Try to avoid filling the space with unnecessary explanation or moving on from the question too quickly.)

1. Read Revelation 2:8-11 & 3:7-13. For each church, what was Jesus'... Approval? Accusation? Admonition?
2. How can we be both poor and rich (2:9)?
3. What do these two letters teach us about suffering?
4. Phil said, "Suffering is an open door. It's an opportunity for our faith to be deepened. It's an opportunity for our faith to be demonstrated. It's an opportunity for us to glorify God." Have you experienced this in your own life? What has suffering taught you? How did it help grow your faith? How did it strengthen your testimony?
5. The churches at Smyrna and Philadelphia faced persecution from both the Romans and Jews. How is Satan attacking the church, today? What should be our response?
6. Read James 1:2-4.
7. Read 2 Corinthians 4:10-18.

EQUIP

Application:

(These questions will challenge your group members to apply the study to their daily lives. How can they live out what they take in? It is highly important that you go over this section with your group each week for the group study to be a success.)

If you knew ahead of time that were about to face persecution, what would you do to prepare?

Are you doing those things now?

Equip Your Mind:

Revelation 3:11 (NIV): "I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take your crown."