

Revelation Unwrapped

Small Group Notes - Introducing Revelation

Some groups may find the following suggested questions a helpful starting point. Don't feel bound by them, rather work at understanding God's word for yourselves, praying that God will help you live in the light of it.

This week, as we introduce Revelation, there are two options for how you might want to use your time.

OPTION ONE

Take your time in your group this week to read through Revelation in one sitting, section by section. At the end of the sections you might like to ask yourself:

- a. In this section what have we seen about the character and plan of God?
- b. In this section what encouragement has there been for God's people?

Introduction 1:1-3:22

The Seven Seals 4:1-8:1

The Seven Trumpets 8:2-11:18

The Holy War 11:19-15:4

The Seven Plagues 15:5-16:21

The Fall of Babylon 17:1-19:10

The Conquering King and Reigning Saints 19:11-21:8

The Final Act 21:9-22:21

Now spend time in prayer.

Revelation 1:3 promises that those who read this letter and take it to heart will be blessed. Spend some time praying that might be true for your group as we begin this new series.

OPTION TWO

Introduction

Do you know anyone who has given up following Jesus? What was it that led to their decision? Have there been any situations or circumstances in your Christian journey that have led you to a place where you might have given up following Jesus?

Into God's Word - Read Revelation 1:1-13

The letter of Revelation records the revelation that John was given by the risen Jesus. It is a letter written to the seven (or complete) churches of God.

In verse 9 John describes the common experience of the church, an experience that John joins them in - he is a companion in the suffering and kingdom and patient endurance that are ours in Jesus.

Question: In what ways are Christians called to suffer for their faith in our country today?

Question: In what ways is it most challenging to live with Jesus as king (to be part of His kingdom) in our country today?

Question: Given suffering and His kingdom, in what ways is patient endurance especially needed? In what ways might we struggle to patiently endure, waiting for Jesus' return?

Question: Verses 4-8 summarise the revelation that John was given. How, even from the summary, might this help us patiently endure?

Question: How do you imagine knowing the beginning from the end might help us patiently endure?

Sometimes when you are in the middle of the situation it can be hard to carry on. You don't know what is going to happen. You don't know why things are happening. You don't know if it is worth continuing. Seeing the whole plan of God from the beginning to the end, painted in glorious vivid images in Revelation, will help us to press on and keep serving Jesus.

Conclusion

Question: Given all we have seen in this introduction, how might Jesus' word in Revelation be able to bless you (1:3) as we look at it over the next few weeks?

Now spend time in prayer.

Spend some time in prayer asking specifically for one another that we will each receive such a blessing week by week through this new series.