

Getting to Know Each Other.

"What is the most memorable 'surprise party' you have been a part of?"¹

Follow up. Did you get to share with someone about Jesus this past week?

Or how else did you obey Jesus? *[FYI, we will ask this every week!]*

Vision. Jesus told us to "Make Disciples." The purpose of our Life Group is: To help people become Believers in Jesus and grow up to become Disciple Makers.

Bible Study Introduction. We are launching into a sermon series on the book of Revelation. The passage we will look at today, written by a different author at a different time, covers many of the same realities we will find in the book of Revelation.

Pray. Before we read the Scripture, let's pray that God will speak to each one of us.

Read. Get someone to read **2 Thessalonians 2:1-17** from the NLT.

Discuss these questions, one at a time, encouraging everyone who wants to respond to do so. Remind the group: Keep your answers based just on this passage.

- How does it make you feel when you hear we are going to be studying the book of Revelation?
- Read verses 1-2 again. How do you think the believers in Thessalonica were feeling about the second coming of Jesus?
- Read verse 3-4. The Antichrist will attempt to deceive people into believing he is God in the flesh. Rather than an original idea, how is this just a copy of something God has already done?
- Someone read v. 7-8. What are some examples of this "lawlessness" already at work in our world?
- Read verses 9-12. We must *love the truth* (v.10) and *believe the truth* (v. 12) to avoid being deceived by counterfeit miracles, signs and wonders. What should be noticeable about a person who *loves* and *believes* the truth?
- Read verses 13-14. What does this say is the truth about how God feels toward us and what has He done for us?
- Heroes in disaster movies often promise, "Trust me, I will get you out of this!" What is the difference between that promise and the truth of God's words in verses 16-17?
- Rather than reacting to these end time events with fear or worry, what do you think God wants us to do with this knowledge?

Obeying Jesus. As disciples of Jesus, we want to follow Jesus in whatever way He is leading us today. We're going to pray silently for 20 seconds. Pray something like this:

"Lord Jesus, what do you want me to do with what You are showing me?" [20 sec. silent prayer]

Closing Pray.² "Lord, open our hearts to receive what You want to teach us through the book of Revelation. Prepare the hearts of the people we will be sharing the Good News of Jesus with this week. And give us strength and joy as we follow You. In Jesus' name, Amen."

Notes: ¹ Use a different "icebreaker" or leave it out.

² Pray your own prayer, ask someone else to pray, or open it up for anyone to voice short prayers if time permits.