

Getting to Know Each Other.

*"What is your favorite type of book or movie: adventure, fantasy, science fiction, historical, technical, etc.?"*¹

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

Or how else did you obey Jesus? *[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. The book of Revelation was written by Jesus' disciple John at a time when churches were being persecuted and needed encouragement. This book gives us a revelation of who Jesus is, what He has done, what He will do, and how He wants us to live.

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

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.

- Read verses 1-3. What are some important differences between this book and a science fiction or fantasy novel ?
- Read verses 4-8. In verse 4 we find the first instance of symbolism that abounds in this book. The Holy Spirit is described as "the seven spirits." The number seven is often used to symbolizes perfection or completion. There is a "sevenfold" description of the Holy Spirit in Isaiah 11:2. Someone read that. Which of these seven qualities of the Holy Spirit do you really need in your life right now?
- Choose one of the descriptions of Jesus Christ in verses 5-7 that stands out to you. Why that one?
- In both verses 4 and 8, God is called "the one who is, who was, and who is to come." How is that significant to you?
- Read verses 9-18. What stands out or surprises you about what Jesus looks like here?
- How does it make you feel that Jesus lays His right hand on John and says, "Don't be afraid"?
- Pastor Nate quoted, "Big God, small problems. Small God, big problems." What does that mean to you?
- Read verse 3 again. God promises to bless those who *read*, who *hear*, and who *obey* the words of this prophecy. What is something in this first chapter that God is using to bless you today?

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.^{2,3} "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.

³ Keep an eye on the time and don't go too long!