



Park Community Church

GENESIS

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# BOOKENDS

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REVELATION

Part Three | Revelation 1–2:7 | A Revelation of Blessing

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# Curriculum Guide

## The Goal

Park Community Church's small groups are built upon three pillars: gather, transformation, and impact. Using these three fundamental pillars, we anticipate the Holy Spirit to mold everyone in our small groups into the likeness of Christ as we push back the darkness in our city. Much of this work comes from knowing God personally, correctly, and intimately. Our hope is that the small group curriculum will facilitate a deeper understanding of God through his revealed Word in a way that transforms our lives together and moves us into Christ-like action.

## Context Questions

Context is key when it comes to interpreting the Bible. Each week, we hope that you will take a few minutes to remind one another of where you are at in Revelation. Don't feel bound to the suggested questions, but feel free to let the conversation flow naturally.

## Textual Questions

As a group, you will observe the text and look for the details. What you are looking for in this section is simply what the *text* is saying. Do not feel the need to jump into application, that time will come. This section will help build a textual framework for the reflection questions that follow.

## Reflection Questions

This section is designed to help your group move from hearing and understanding the Word to letting it shape your life. Each week you'll reflect together on questions that invite vulnerability, personal sharing, and accountability. Use this time to consider how the lesson applies to your daily life, whether through a new way of thinking, a fresh heart posture, repentance, celebration, or a conviction to live differently. The goal is that faith would be stirred in both belief and practice, encouraging one another toward growth in Christ.

# Week One

A Message to Bless | Revelation 1:1-3

## Context Questions

1. What events in the early church precede the writing of this book?
2. How does the cultural context impact how this text is understood?

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## Textual Questions

1. Who wrote Revelation?
2. Who is Revelation originally addressed to (vv. 4, 11)? Why is that audience important for how we read the book today and how does that frame the tone from the very beginning?
3. In verse 1, what does it mean that these events “must soon take place”? How might this phrase have been understood by the original readers?
4. The book opens with the phrase “the revelation of Jesus Christ.” How should that shape the purpose or aim of the whole book?
5. Revelation begins in the form of a letter, a prophecy, and an apocalypse. How do you see each of those genres showing up in chapter 1?
6. What does the phrase “the testimony of Jesus Christ” (v. 2) mean within verses 1–3?

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## Reflection Questions

1. How has your past experience with Revelation shaped the way you approach it now?
  - a. Are there parts of the book that feel intimidating or confusing to you?
  - b. What seems approachable or encouraging?
  - c. As you begin this study, what are you hoping God will form in you or reveal to you?

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2. Revelation begins not with fear or terror, but with a promise of blessing.
  - a. How does this shape your understanding of what God intended this book to communicate to its original hearers?

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3. In verse 2, we read that John “bore witness to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, even to all that he saw.” John was entrusted with not only proclaiming the good news of Jesus but also faithfully sharing the difficult visions and prophetic revelations God showed him. For John, bearing witness was not easy work. Some of what he saw was overwhelming, unsettling, and costly. Yet, he remained obedient to the call to testify to *all* that God revealed.
  - a. Who in your life are you intentionally bearing witness to?
  - b. What challenges do you face in testifying about Jesus? What makes it hard for you?

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4. Verse 3 contains a three-part blessing to “the one who reads aloud,” “those who hear,” and “those who keep.”

- What is the distinction between each of these and why does John start the book with this three-fold sequence?
- Which of these is most natural for you in your current season of life? Which feels the most difficult and why?

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# Week Two

The Alpha and the Omega | Revelation 1:4-8

## Context Questions

1. What events precede the passage we're studying today?
2. How does the cultural context impact how this text is understood?

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## Textual Questions

1. In verse 4, who is the sender of the greeting? How is God uniquely described and what does the threefold description emphasize about God's identity?
2. Where in these verses do you see the interplay between past, present, and future? How does the text hold all three together?
3. Verse 7 proclaims Jesus' coming with clouds and says, "every eye will see him." Who does the text explicitly include in that "every eye" and what reaction is mentioned?
4. In verse 8, God identifies Himself with three titles: "Alpha and Omega," "who is and who was and who is to come," and "the Almighty." What does each title contribute to the picture of God in this opening section?
5. How are these titles associated with Jesus in this section?

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## Reflection Questions

1. Verse 5 introduces Jesus with three titles: "faithful witness," "firstborn of the dead," and "ruler of kings on earth."

- a. What does each title highlight about Jesus' identity and mission?
- b. Which title appears first and why might that matter?

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2. After recognizing Jesus as the "him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood" (v. 5), John breaks into praise, saying, "to him be the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen." (v. 6).

- a. When was the last time remembering Jesus and His sacrifice moved your heart to genuine gratitude?

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3. In verse 7, John paints a sobering picture: when Christ appears on the clouds, "every eye will see him," and "all the nations will wail on account of him." Their mourning reflects both the weight of judgment for their resistance to God, and the undeniable recognition of Jesus' true identity. It is a moment of revelation that is both terrifying and tragically honest.

- a. Does this vision move you toward compassion for those who do not yet know or acknowledge Christ? How?
- b. In what ways are these verses meant to awaken and stir the Church as we wait for Christ's return?

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4. In verse 8, Jesus names Himself the Alpha and the Omega; the One who holds the beginning and the end of all things.

- c. Why do you think He chooses to introduce Himself this way to start Revelation?
- d. How does this identity become a source of comfort for John later in verses like 17–18?
- e. How does knowing that Jesus is the Alpha and Omega, the one who is, who was, and who is to come, bring you comfort in the uncertainties and difficulties of life? How have you experienced this comfort?

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# Week Three

The Son of Man | Revelation 1:9-20

## Context Questions

1. What events precede the passage we're studying today?
2. How does the cultural context impact how this text is understood?

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## Textual Questions

1. In verse 9, how does John describe himself? What three experiences does he say he shares with his audience? Why might that matter for understanding the tone of this vision?
2. John hears "a loud voice like a trumpet." What is the significance of the voice's *likeness*? What does this simile emphasize about how the voice struck him?
3. John writes from the island of Patmos (v. 9). How does his situation shape the tone, urgency, or emotional weight of his message? What might Patmos symbolize about the church's calling in seasons of suffering?
4. How does John describe his own emotional and physical response to encountering Jesus (v. 17)?
5. As you read the description of Jesus in verses 12–16, what details stand out to you and why? What effect do these images seem designed to produce in the reader?
6. In verse 19, John is instructed to write three categories of things. What are they and what does this instruction suggest about the structure of Revelation?
7. Why does Jesus call the churches "lampstands" in verses 18-20?

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## Reflection Questions

1. When John turns, the first thing he sees is Jesus standing among the lampstands.
  - a. How does it encourage you to know that Jesus stands *in the midst* of His churches; that he is right now, close, present, and attentive even to us?

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2. In verse 17, John falls at Jesus' feet "as though dead."
  - a. Have you ever felt truly undone by the holiness of Christ?
  - b. What keeps your heart from that kind of reverence today?

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3. After John falls and is overwhelmed by emotion, Jesus touches him and says, "Fear not, I am the first and the last, and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades" (v.18).
  - a. What does this reveal about Christ's compassion and love toward us in moments of overwhelm?
  - b. Where do you need to experience both the closeness of Christ and the comfort from those words?

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4. When John writes to the seven churches, he introduces himself as a “partner in the tribulation, the kingdom, and the patient endurance that are in Jesus.” (v. 9)

- What do these three realities represent for the early church?
- Why does John choose to identify himself this way rather than as an apostle or authority figure?

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# Week Four

Ephesus | Revelation 2:1-7

## Context Questions

1. What events precede the passage we're studying today?
2. How does the cultural context impact how this text is understood?

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## Textual Questions

1. Ephesus was a major city known for trade, learning, and the temple of Artemis. How does this cultural setting contribute to the pressures and challenges the Ephesian church faced?
2. Early Christian tradition describes Ephesus as a place where Paul, Apollos, Timothy, and John ministered. How does this history shape the expectations Jesus expresses toward this church?
3. What strengths does Jesus affirm in the church of Ephesus? Which of these qualities seem most significant and why?
4. The repeated phrase "He who has an ear, let him hear" echoes Jesus' words in the Gospels. How does this connection deepen the authority and urgency of the message in Revelation 2:1-7?
5. How do the Ephesian church's strengths and weaknesses mirror the story of Israel in the Old Testament?

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## Reflection Questions

1. In verse 1, Jesus identifies Himself as the One who “holds the seven stars in His right hand” and who “walks among the seven golden lampstands.”
  - a. What do you think Jesus wants the church in Ephesus to understand about Him through this description?
  - b. How often do you pause to consider that Jesus holds *our* church in His right hand and actively walks among us?
  - c. How does this comfort, challenge, or reassure you?

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2. Jesus tells the Ephesian church something no one wants to hear: “you have abandoned the love you had at first” (v. 4) and urges them to “remember from where you have fallen.” (v. 5)

Read Acts 19, where the Gospel first ignited in Ephesus. Here, you see a community marked by repentance, spiritual awakening, costly obedience, and a transformation so profound it disrupted the entire city.

- a. What do you notice the Ephesian church still doing well? Where have they drifted from the love that first defined them?
- b. Like the Ephesian church, many Christians begin their journey with Christ with passion, gratitude, and a burning love for Jesus awakened by grace. Over time however, that love can fade due to busyness, spiritual fatigue, or subtle compromises with sin. Have you ever recognized this drift in your own life? What have you done about it?

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3. Ultimately, Jesus does not simply want correct doctrine from the Ephesian church. He wants their wholehearted love and devotion. Jesus is not impressed by the intolerance of false teachers and sin, steadfast endurance in persecution, and hatred of the work of the Nicolaitans. Jesus wants their hearts.

- a. Do you see yourself in the Ephesian church at all?
- b. How is Jesus inviting you to love him deeper?

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4. Jesus calls the church to “remember,” “repent,” and “do the works you did at first.” (v. 5)

- a. How does this three-part sequence reflect a biblical pattern of renewal (seen in prophets, Psalms, and Jesus’ own teaching)?
- b. What does the order reveal about the nature of true repentance?
- c. Is there anything in your life you need to repent of? What would it look like using this three-step sequence?

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