

This Is ~~Not~~ The End

Group Discussion Guide // Week 1

WARM-UP

1. What's one of the best pieces of advice anybody's ever given you?
 2. Who are some people whose words of advice, correction, and comfort carry the most weight with you? Why do you take their words so seriously?
 3. How familiar are you with the Revelation? What weird things have you heard or read about this final book of the Bible?
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TRUTH

This Is ~~Not~~ The End

Read Revelation 1:1-3

We live in a strange time. We're working hard to make our lives and the world a better place because we're sure it's not the end. Yet when we look at the world around us, it often feels like the end. It can be a challenge to know how to live in such a time, but it's the same challenge that the book of Revelation was written to address. John urges us to read and obey what's written in Revelation because "the time is near." What can we learn about this "time" in which they lived (and which we live) from the following verses?

Revelation 1:9 / Romans 13:11-14 / Revelation 22:10-11

Before We Can Hear

Read Revelation 1:4-8

It's not by chance that John's opening and his first vision are both centered on the person of Jesus. What Jesus has to say to the churches is going to sting at times, but it's also going to be comforting. The only way the churches will truly be comforted and change what needs to be changed, is if they take Jesus's words seriously. Based on the following verses from Revelation 1, why should we take Jesus's words seriously?

Verse 5 / verse 6 / verse 7 / verse 8

A Revelation of Jesus

Read Revelation 1:12-16

The book of Revelation is rich with symbolism. Each picture represents something important. By referencing other scriptures, we can get a fuller understanding of what this glorious vision of Jesus means. What do you think the following images signify based on the verses listed?

- ▶ "...clothed with a long robe..." (Isaiah 6:1)
- ▶ "The hairs of his head were white, like white wool, like snow." (Dan 7:9, Leviticus 19:32, Proverbs 16:31, 20:29)
- ▶ "His eyes were like a flame of fire..." (Revelation 2:18-20)
- ▶ "...his feet were like burnished bronze" (Ephesians 1:21-22)
- ▶ "...his voice was like the roar of many waters" (Ezekiel 1:24, Ezekiel 43:1-2)
- ▶ "...two-edged sword..." (Isa 49:2, Eph 6:17, Heb 4:12, Rev 19:15)

GRACE

A Revelation of Jesus's Heart

Read Revelation 1:17-20

As John lay crumpled at Jesus's feet like a dead man, a hand reached out and touched him. It was the hand of Jesus, the hand that holds the world, the hand full of all power and glory. But there was something else in that hand – a hole from a nail. It was a reminder to John and it can be a reminder to us that this Jesus, who is full of power, is loving and compassionate. Nobody's words should carry more weight, because nobody was willing to empty himself to rescue us.

CHANGE

1. How would you describe the impact that this glorious revelation of Jesus has on you?
2. Can you think of any misconceptions you have of Jesus that this revelation confronts and challenges? What are they?
3. Which of the specific image(s) of Jesus (eyes, robe, feet, etc.) caught your attention? Why do you think that is?

Pray for a tender and receptive heart as we head into the rest of Revelation to hear what God would say to you, and to have the courage to act where God would have you act, and to be comforted in the ways God wants to comfort you.