

REVELATION

OUR HOPE IS ON HIS THRONE

THE SEVEN SEALS

KEY SCRIPTURES. Choose a different person to read the following scriptures.

Read Revelation 6-7

START THINKING. Ask these questions to get your LifeGroup thinking.

- Understanding that we do not have a clear interpretation for every number and symbol in Revelation, discuss as a small group how you will handle differing interpretations and beliefs within the group regarding this book. Pray for the Spirit to guide the focus of your times together and to enable peace and a willingness to learn from each other even if perspectives on Revelation differ.
- The theme of Revelation is the Gospel (Good News). How does this understanding affect how you interpret this book? How did it affect the original hearers of this epistle?

How does it affect your application of what you read in Revelation?

START TALKING. Ask these questions to get your LifeGroup talking.

- Revelation 6:1 begins with the Lamb opening the first of the seven seals. Look back at Revelation 5:1-14. Who is the Lamb? Why is the Lamb able to open the seals?
- In Revelation 6:2, 4, 8; 7:2; 8:2, 3; 9:1, 3, 5; 13:5, 7, 14, 15, permission is given by God for all that occurs in these chapters, indicating that He is sovereign. Share about a trial that you have experienced or are experiencing in your life. Does your response to trials indicate that you believe God is sovereign? What does it practically look like to trust in the sovereignty of God, especially in the midst of a trial?
- Revelation 6 connects to Zechariah 1:7-17 and 6:1-8. How are these visions different from Revelation 6? How do they correlate with the vision in Revelation 6?
- In Revelation 6:1-8, what is the purpose associated with each horseman? (Conquering, war, famine, and death)

- Each horseman depicts a progression of sin and strife on the earth, which is the consequence of God giving humanity over to their sinfulness. What results on earth demonstrate the self-destructiveness of human sin? Knowing that sin destroys others and ourselves should lead us to repentance. What sinful tendencies are in your heart?
- How do you respond to sin in your life? Are you broken over your sin? Do you hate your sin? Are you urgent to confess it? Or do you have a laissez-faire attitude towards sin? What does your response to sin indicate about your relationship with God?
- Do you have someone in your life to hold you accountable? Is there trust and respect within the LifeGroup where people feel safe to share about their struggles with sin or about trials they are experiencing? How can your LifeGroup grow in encouraging each other in faithfulness as well as in lovingly confronting one another about sin?
- In the opening of the fifth seal in Revelation 6:9-11, the martyred saints cry for God to avenge them by judging those who are of the earth, and judgment comes in Revelation 6:12-17 with the opening of the sixth seal.

In conjunction with Revelation 6:12-17, read Isaiah 13:9-12; 24:1, 6; 34:2-4; Joel 2:1-2, 10, 30-31; Matthew 24:29. How do these prophecies reinforce Revelation 6:12-17?

- **The sixth seal brings dread and despair for the wicked as they face God's wrath (see Revelation 6:16-17). For the Christian, knowledge of God's coming wrath on the unsaved should spur us on in gospel proclamation. Who in your life is unsaved and on the path to experience God's eternal judgment? Are you faithful in witnessing to others about the saving grace of Jesus Christ? Pray for personal boldness in gospel proclamation and pray for unbelievers around the world to turn from their sin and to trust in Christ as Savior and Lord.**

- **Christians are secure on earth in the midst of tribulation. Discuss your definition of "security." How does your definition of security align with Revelation 6-7 as believers are persecuted for the faith and facing great trials on earth? Is Christ your security, or are you depending on people or things (both of which are temporary) to provide that sense of protection and well-being in your life?**

- Revelation 7:9 presents a shift in time to after the opening of the sixth seal. How does Revelation 7:9-17 describe the response of God's people to His judgment of the earth?

START SHARING. Ask these questions to get your LifeGroup sharing.

- Revelation 6-7 depict the transience of this world. What is your life built on? Are you investing your life in the eternal? Or are you living as though this world is your home? Are you preparing your kids, your family members, your neighbors, and your co-workers for eternity? Are you teaching the Word of God to others and modeling for them how to faithfully follow Christ? Are you spending your resources on things that bring eternal reward? Does your schedule reflect that you are living with eternity in mind?

START PRAYING.

Pray together as you dismiss.