

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

For the week of July 7-13, 2024
"THE SEALS OF REVELATION"

GETTING STARTED

To the facilitator: Use this section to introduce the topic. If possible, give a brief recap of the sermon.

Share a memorable point, a spiritual lesson, a personal application, a question, or something that challenged you from the sermon last Sunday.

Think about someone you admire for their faith. What qualities do they possess that you would like to cultivate in your own life?

GROUP DISCUSSION

1. Read Matthew 24:29-31, 36-44 and 1 Thessalonians 4:16 - 5:6. List down the similarities of the two passages. Do you think Jesus and Paul are both talking about the Rapture here?
2. (Optional) Revelations 16:12–16 is the record of what will happen toward the end of the tribulation, when an angel pours out the sixth bowl judgment on the earth. The word Armageddon makes its only appearance in the Bible in this passage. In Revelations 19:11–20, is the final battle occurs at Christ's second coming as the conquering Christ defeats the forces of the Antichrist. We take this to be a description of the Battle of Armageddon mentioned in Revelation 16. What are your thoughts about this battle?
3. (Optional) Some believe that Matthew 24:29-31 is talking about the Battle of Armageddon and not the Rapture. Based on the readings from Revelations 16 and 19 and comparing it to 1 Thessalonians 4:16-5:10, do you think this is so?
4. Read Revelations 6. How do you respond to the breaking of each seal and the events that follow? How should we, as believers, prepare for or respond to these prophetic revelations? Why do you think God is allowing these events to take place?
5. Scholars believe the first horseman riding a white horse is the Antichrist (6:1-2). In Daniel 7:8 and 25, we see another description of the Antichrist. What are some of the characteristics of the Antichrist as you see from these passages?

6. The fifth seal reveals the souls of martyrs crying out for justice (verses 9-11). How does impact your understanding of the cost of discipleship and the witness of the faithful during that time? What emotions do you think the martyrs were expressing in their cry for justice, and how do you handle feelings of injustice in your own life?
7. Overall, do you see a correspondence between Jesus' Olivet Discourse in Matthew 24 and John's description of the opening of the seals in Revelations 6? Do you think there is reasonable evidence to show the timing of the Rapture from these passages?

NEXT STEPS

- I will cultivate a deeper trust in God.
- I will strive to find peace in God's presence, even when facing uncertainties.
- I will trust and rest in the knowledge that God is in control.
- I will keep my focus on the eternal life promised by God, giving me confidence for the present and future.
- I will deepen my relationship with Jesus Christ.

Don't forget to:

- Go through the devotionals every day this week.
- Have a regular daily time of prayer and reading of God's Word.

CLOSING THE SESSION

Close the session by taking the time to pray for one another. Consider the following as you pray:

- Pray for a prepared heart that longs for the return of Jesus.
- Pray for courage and conviction to share our hope in Christ to others.
- Pray for relationships to grow with other Christ-followers, that you will encourage and care for one another.
- Pray for your unsaved family, friends, and loved ones.
- Pray for protection, provision, healing and comfort for everyone who's going through physical, emotional, mental and spiritual pain.

BIBLE READING GUIDE

- July 8 Revelations 6
- July 9 Deuteronomy 31:1-8
- July 10 Matthew 24:29-51
- July 11 Ecclesiastes 3:1-15
- July 12 Revelations 7:9-17
- July 13 Psalms 15:1-5
- July 14 Hebrews 3:7-19