

Group Discussion Guide

What on earth is happening? Wk 4

1- On Sunday, we wrapped up our mini series about the 'seven seals'. The apostle John saw a vision of Jesus holding a large scroll in His right hand, which symbolizes Christ holding control of history. The scroll was tightly closed with 7 wax seals. Remember that the #7 symbolizes 'complete', 'full' or 'whole'. This symbolizes Christ holding control over all of history rather than a portion of it. As Jesus opens each of the wax seals, John sees history unfold through visions. What happened when Jesus opened the first 4 seals? The 5th seal? The 6th seal?

2- Read Job 30:20-21. Why was Job so frustrated in his prayer life? (Read the first 2 chapters of Job if you need to review what was happening in his life.) How can you relate with Job's prayer?

3- Read Revelation 8:1. How do you think you would respond to 30 minutes of silence?

4- Read Revelation 8:2-3. Don't worry about the 7 angels or the 7 trumpets, as we will learn more about them in our next series. For now, let's focus on the angel in verse 3. How do you picture this scene in your mind?

5- Read Exodus 30:1, Exodus 30:6-8 & Psalm 141:1-2. How do these passages relate with John's vision in Revelation 8?

6- Most of us have at least one area of life that we've given up praying for. Although we may continue to pray for other areas of

life...that particular area has become a no-go-zone for prayer. We question if God hears that request or even cares about it. How do you relate with this? What has become your no-go-zone in your prayer life?

7- Read Revelation 8:4. How can this verse encourage and strengthen us?

8- Revelation 5:a says 'The angel took the incense burner, filled it with fire from the altar, and hurled it to the earth.' What does the incense burner represent? What might the fire from the altar represent? What truth is this verse saying through the angel hurling the burning incense to the earth?

9- Read Exodus 19:1-3, 9-13 & 16-19. How does this passage compare or contrast with your perspective of the LORD? What significance did the dark cloud, thunder, lightening & earthquake bring with the LORD's presence?

10- Revelation 5:b says 'There were peals of thunder, rumblings, flashes of lightning, and an earthquake.' This phrase is repeated in Revelation 4:5, 11:19 & 16:18. How would the thunder, lightening & earthquake bring encouragement to John & the disciples in the first century? How can this encourage our lives today?

11- Revelation 8:1-5 proclaims some powerful truths for us...

- We are secure in Christ
- Jesus hears our prayers

- Christ responds to our prayers
- Christ is coming for us

Which one do you need to embrace the most today?

12- Lift one another up in prayer...with the confidence that Christ hears us & loves to hear our voices.