

Group Discussion Guide

What On Earth Is Happening? Wk 1

1- On Sunday, we began a mini series that will walk us through Revelation chapters 6, 7 & 8:1-5. It's packed with visions that the Apostle John saw while living in exile on the island of Patmos. Before we begin to discuss this next section of Revelation, let's review what we have already covered in chapters 1-5. What do you remember from each chapter? How would you summarize each chapter? How has your life been blessed through the book of Revelation so far?

2- In Revelation chapter 6, Jesus is beginning to open the 7 wax seals on the scroll in His right hand. Remember that the scroll represents history. Jesus is the only One worthy to control the events of history and give meaning to each event. Read Revelation 6:1-8. This passage personifies the 4 phases of war with different warriors who are riding horses. As we will see, war harms all areas of peoples' lives. Each of these riders have been moving throughout the history of our world. Which rider jumps out at you the most?

3- Read Revelation 6:1-2. Who opened the first seal? How might this detail have encouraged the first century Christians? How can it encourage us today?

4- Revelation 6:1-2 personifies the first phase of war: someone who seeks to conquer others. What does the color white represent? What does the bow & crown represent? Who would

John associate with this rider? What are some ways that this rider has made himself known in our world during our lifetime?

5- Read Revelation 6:3-4. These verses personify the second phase of war: an evil desire to cause conflict. What does the color red represent? What was this rider's method for getting people to fight with one another? What are some ways that you can see this rider in our culture today?

6- Read Revelation 6:5-6. These verses personify the third phase of war: the destruction of the economy. What does the color black represent? What do the scales represent? How do you see the poor being oppressed in these verses?

7- Read Revelation 6:7-8. John saw a personification of the 4th phase of war: Death. What does the pale green color represent? What feeling or thought do you experience while reading these verses?

8- Read Revelation 6:9 & Romans 12:1. How do these verses relate to each other?

9- Read Revelation 6:10. Although we may not be facing physical death...what are some ways that you can relate with their question they asked the Lord?

10- Read Revelation 6:11 & Revelation 12:11. How do these verses relate to one another? What details in Christ's answer in Revelation 6:11 would have encouraged the martyrs?

11- In Revelation 6:11, Jesus encouraged the martyrs to 'rest a little while longer'. He was telling them to wait. Christ's ultimate judgement upon the world will come in His timing. Until then, we wait. And in our waiting, we are not alone. Jesus is always with His people, whether we are waiting for His return on earth or in Heaven. What area of your life needs this encouragement today?

12- Lift one another up in prayer. Use your answers to the previous question (#11) to guide your prayer time.