

Group Discussion Guide

Lion & The Lamb Wk 1

1- On Sunday, we kicked off a new mini series called 'The Lion And The Lamb'. Take a few moments to review the context of the book of Revelation. Who wrote it? What was the author's circumstances? Who was Revelation originally written to? What was their circumstances?

2- In 2 Kings 6, the Syrian army surrounded the city of Dothan in hopes of killing the prophet Elisha. As Elisha's servant was going outside of the city gates, he was terrified when he saw the Syrians. But Elisha remained calm. These two men faced the same circumstance with totally different perspectives. Elisha told his servant, "Do not be afraid. For those who are with us outnumber those who are with them." Elisha then prayed for the LORD to allow his servant to see what he could see. Suddenly Elisha's servant could see from Elisha's perspective! He saw the army of the LORD on the mountain above them. It was covered with horses & chariots of fire. The LORD transformed the perspective of Elisha's servant. Share about a time that the LORD has opened your eyes to see your circumstances through His perspective.

3- Read Revelation 4:1 and Revelation 1:10-11. How do these passages relate with one another? What was Jesus inviting John to do (in Revelation 4:1)?

4- The book of Revelation is packed with symbolism. Many of the verses describe visions that would be familiar with the first century Christians. In the 404 verses of Revelation, there are over 500 allusions to the Old Testament. Read Revelation 4:2-3. How

do you picture this scene in your mind? What Old Testament allusion do you notice? What do you think John was saying about the one on the throne?

5- In the book of Revelation, numbers are also symbolic. Rather than representing a literal digit, John used numbers to describe what he saw in significant ways. For example, the numbers 3, 4, 7, 10 & 12 represent wholeness, fullness or completeness. Keeping this in mind, read Revelation 4:4. What significance would the number 24 carry? Who do you think the 24 elders might be? Why are the elders wearing white clothes & crowns?(Leader tip: you may have multiple opinions about the identity of the elders. This is ok! Be sure to bring the discussion back to this simple truth: the 24 elders represent all of the leaders of God's people.)

6- Read Revelation 4:5. What detail do you notice in this verse? What are some ways that it could have brought encouragement & strength to the Christians in the first century? How can it do the same for us?

7- In the ancient world, the sea represented the power of evil or chaos. Revelation 4:6 says 'Something like a sea of glass, similar to crystal, was also before the throne.' What does this verse teach us about the Lord? What does it teach us about evil?

8- Read Revelation 4:6-8. These verses are packed with symbolism. What details do you notice about the 4 creatures? What are these details symbolizing? (Example: 'covered with eyes' would emphasize that the 4 creatures could see/witness all of the Lord's glory.)

9- In Revelation 4:8b, the creatures call God the “Lord God, who is, who was and is to come, the Almighty.” This title is also mentioned in Revelation 1:8. Which Person of the Godhead (Trinity) is this title describing? What truths are the 4 creatures teaching us about the Lord?

10- Read Revelation 4:9-11. What do these verses teach us about our worship?

11- Let’s remember the apostle John’s context. He was the last living apostle, exiled on the island of Patmos. Each day was a reminder of the power of the Roman Empire. He likely wondered if his ministry was washed up. Read Revelation 4:1-11 one more time. How might this vision transform John’s perspective of his circumstances?

12- What area of your life is discouraging you today? How can Revelation 4 transform your perspective? Spend some time in prayer, asking our Father keep your focus upon His throne this week.

1.) On Sunday, we began a new mini series that will walk us through the letters to the 7 churches in Asia Minor. Seth called Ephesus a city that was the ‘cream of the crop’ in comparison to other Roman cities. What details do you remember about the culture of Ephesus?

2.) What is the most impressive city that you have visited?

3.) Read Revelation 2:1. Which verses from Revelation chapter 1 are being quoted by John?

- 4.) What truths can we learn about Jesus in Revelation 2:1?
- 5.) Read Revelation 2:2-3. Which characteristics of the church in Ephesus impress you?
- 6.) Read Revelation 2:4. Imagine that you are in the church in Ephesus as this is being read aloud for the first time. What would you think or feel?
- 7.) Read 1 Corinthians 13:1-3. How do these verses relate to Revelation 2:4?
- 8.) It's common for Christians to resemble the church in Ephesus. We can remain faithful to the works in our ministries and missions, while our love for Christ is empty. When is the last time you experienced this?
- 9.) Read Revelation 2:5-6 together. How might these verses encourage and challenge the Christians in Ephesus?
- 10.) Read Genesis chapter 3 & Revelation 2:7. How do these passages relate to one another? What do you think or feel after reading these passages together?
- 11.) Revelation 2:1-7 was written *to* the church in Ephesus and *for* us. What do you sense that Christ wants you to take away from the letter to the church in Ephesus?
- 12.) Spend some time in prayer. Lead into your prayer time with this question: What do you love most about Jesus? Then take some time to share your answers with Christ in prayer.