

Reading Tracks

TRACK ONE

Follow along with basics of the story in a short selection of readings this week..

Monday: Revelation 1

Tuesday: Revelation 2

Wednesday: Revelation 3

Thursday: Revelation 4-5

Friday: Revelation 21

Saturday: Revelation 22

TRACK TWO

Get a little bigger perspective by reading assigned sections from *The Story* © 2011 by Zondervan.

Read pages 459-470 this week.

TRACK THREE

Get the whole story by reading through most of the Bible in longer sections.

In your Bible, read Revelation 1-22 this week.

This Week's Scripture Memory Verse

"Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise."
Revelation 5:12 (NIV)

Next Week in Worship

Next week's message: The Story of God, the Story of Us

Next week's readings: Psalm 78, Luke 24:13-27

We learned this week to see the God's promise of salvation in the book of Revelation for all who are in Christ. When *The Big God Story* continues next week, we'll look back over the Biblical story with a bird's eye view and ask how God is writing His story in our lives now.



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Group Discussion

Connect

Have you had any past experiences with the book of Revelation, either positive or negative?

Learn

Read Revelation 2:8-11 and 3:14-22. (In the language of Revelation's original audiences, "Jews" in 2:9 wouldn't mean only ethnic Jews but all the people of God's Messiah Jesus.)

- What do these brief letter-like introductions tell us about the life of each of these early Christian communities? What can we say about them? (If you have a good study Bible, you may find some additional background notes or even maps that you could share with your group.)
- What key messages are being communicated to Christians in Smyrna (and those in similar situations)? Do these messages speak to you somehow?
- What key messages are being communicated to Christians in Laodicea (and those in similar situations)? Do these messages speak to you somehow?

Read Revelation 4-5. Many people read Revelation to decode a sequence of events that will come in the future, but these chapters are the heart of Revelation's vision of "what must take place after this (4:1)." Christians who understand the message of these chapters will grasp the center of Revelation's message.

- As a group, try to summarize what happens in this vision.
- Revelation says that Jesus is authorized to represent God faithfully (Only he is worthy to open the scroll), and that he is *both* a Lion and a Lamb. What do these images say to you?
- In what ways is this passage encouraging to you? In what ways is it a warning to you?

Apply

Read Revelation 22:1-5. In the story of the Bible, the world has suffered much since the fall from Eden at the beginning of Genesis. Revelation says that God has not abandoned His creation. Quite the opposite, the entire story culminates in God restoring and renewing His creation. All who have returned to God in Jesus the Savior gather around the Tree of Life again.

- Is God calling you to renewed faithfulness to Him somehow? What next steps do you feel you might need to take?

Pray

Those who are suffering need strength. Those who are compromised need clarity and repentance. Pray for your own group and for Christians everywhere that we will hear God's word and turn our hearts to Him.