

Discussion Guide – All Things New (Week #1)

1. “How are we all doing?” (*High, Low & Buffalo*)

- a. High – What was a high point in your week? What was good or went well?
- b. Low – What was a low point in your week? What was a challenge, disappointment, or struggle?
- c. Buffalo – What was something else that happened this week? It can be anything – interesting, random, weird, surprising, or completely normal!

2. “Can someone read the next part out loud?”

The book of Revelation is complicated, but the heart of it is simple: it is an *encouragement to the church*. ‘Revelation’ means to ‘reveal’ – it lifts the curtain, takes you behind the scenes, and shows us the way things really are. Reading Revelation gives us a glimpse of Jesus as he is and the world as it is, as well as showing us how to live as a result.

3. “The beginning of Revelation says, ‘blessed is the one who reads these words out loud’ (Rev. 1:3), and we want to do that! Let’s start by reading all of Revelation 1.”

Read all of Revelation chapter 1 out loud. Each person could read one verse at a time, two people each read half, one person reads it all, or any other way that works for you!

4. “John is told to write what he sees; he is told to record his Revelation. When we ‘see’ what John ‘saw,’ we experience the Revelation for ourselves.”

1. What did John *see* in Revelation 1? Look for descriptive language:

- a. What people, places, or things are mentioned?
- b. What words are used to describe them?
- c. What is happening? What action words are used?

2. What image sticks out to you?

3. Revelation is closely connected to the Old Testament. Many Bibles will have a footnote in the verse¹ to show what part of the Old Testament it’s talking about. Take a moment to check your Bible for those

¹ Just like this footnote

footnotes. If you have them, read one or two of the Old Testament verses. If you don't have them, read Daniel 7:9 and 7:13 and see where it connects to Revelation 1.

5. "John tells us, the readers, to "hear what the Spirit is saying to the churches."² What do we hear the Spirit saying to us?"

- a. What did John *hear* in Revelation 1?
 - i. Who speaks, and what do they say?
 - ii. What facts are stated? (Remember that John is 'telling' us a lot himself! *E.g. verse 9*)
 - iii. What reminders are there?
 - iv. What commands are given?
- b. What sticks out to you?

6. "Revelation 1:3 also promises that 'blessed are those who hear these words and take them to heart.' 'Taking these words to heart' happens when our lives are changed as a result."

- a. Consider your life:
 - i. Your thoughts, beliefs, and emotions
 - ii. Your hopes, joys, struggles, and fears
 - iii. Your home, school, or work
 - iv. Your chores, routines, habits, and hobbies
 - v. Your relationships with your friends, families, and co-workers
 - vi. What happened last week and what will happen this week
 - vii. The things you worry about and the things that make you think 'it'll all be OK'
 - viii. How you think about God or how you talk to God
- b. Reflect on what you 'saw' and 'heard' in Revelation 1. What can be different this week *because* of The Revelation of Jesus?

For example, "Lately I've been feeling really far away from God. It's been hard to pray and I've struggled to even come to life group, but the image of Jesus 'walking among the churches' is really encouraging! It reminds me that Jesus is closer than I thought.

7. "Thanks for sharing _____. Can I pray for you?" Take time to pray for each other.

8. "Thanks everyone! Same time next week? Who will lead / host / bring snack / etc.?"

² Revelation 2:7, 11, 17, 29 and 3:6, 13, 22