

Discussion Guide – All Things New

Revelation 2:1-7

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

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

2. “The book of Revelation was read out loud to the churches, and there was a blessing for the reader!¹ Can someone read Revelation 2:1-7 out loud? Try to read a little *slower* than usual. For the rest of us, try to imagine what John saw as we listen. Can we “see” what we hear?”

Have one person read this week’s passage out loud while everyone else listens. You can close your eyes if you’d like!

3. “What did you picture as you listened? What of the images were interesting or compelling? What did you find hopeful, strange, or even scary?”

For example, how did you picture Jesus holding the stars: were the stars little enough to carry, or was Jesus big enough to hold them? Did he hold them in his left hand or his right hand? What color was His hair?²

4. “Revelation is closely connected to the Old Testament. Can someone read Genesis 3:22-24? As we listen, imagine what is being described.

- i. How are the images of Genesis 3:22-24 and Revelation 2:7 different?
- ii. How does each feel for you?

5. “John tells us, the readers, to “hear what the Spirit is saying to the churches.” Imagine you were sitting beside John as Jesus was talking to him. What do you hear Jesus saying in Revelation 2:1-7?

¹ Revelation 1:3

² Was it white, like it was described in Revelation 1:14?

- i. What do you feel curious about or confused by? Is there anything that feels clear, relevant, or powerful?
- ii. Jesus 'knows' a lot about the church in Ephesus – their good works, their perseverance, and how they did not tolerate evil people.
 - a. Where do you see similar things in your life? Our life group? Our church?
- iii. Jesus warns the church that they had 'forsaken the love they had at first.' This could have been a love for people, a love for God, or both. Regardless, the good things they did were no longer motivated by love.
 - a. Where do you see something similar in your life? Our life group? Our church?
- iv. What promise does Jesus make?

OPTIONAL – If you'd like, break into smaller groups for this last section. You could also have one person responding to all of the questions at once rather than discussing one question at a time.

6. "Revelation 1:3 says that 'those who hear these words and take them to heart' are blessed."

- a. What did you 'see' or 'hear' most clearly from the passage? What resonated with you? What picture or idea do you keep returning to?
- b. Give some thought to what has happened in the past couple of weeks and what will happen in the next couple of weeks. What 'words will you take to heart?'
 - a. Where in your life does an image or encouragement feel meaningful?
 - b. Where in your life does a warning feel personal?
 - c. Where in your life does a promise feel powerful?
- c. How does that image, encouragement, warning, or promise impact your life (thoughts, beliefs, relationships, actions, or words)?

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.?"