

Discussion Guide – All Things New

The Letter to the Church in Thyatira (Revelation 2:18-29)

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 interesting, random, or surprising that happened this week?

2. “The book of Revelation was read out loud to the churches, and there was a blessing for the reader! Can someone read Revelation 2:18-29 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?”

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, Jesus’ blazing eyes of fire and feet of bronze, or the ‘bed of suffering,’ or ‘dashing the nations to pieces like pottery.’

4. “Revelation is closely connected to the Old Testament. Can someone read part of Jezebel’s story in 1 Kings 21:1-16 & 25?”

5. “John tells us, the readers, to “hear what the Spirit is saying to the churches.” What do you hear in Revelation 2:12-17?”

- i. What do you feel curious about or confused by? Is there anything that feels clear, relevant, or powerful?
- ii. Where do you hear Jesus’ encouragement in your life now for your ‘deeds, love, faith, service, perseverance, or doing more than you did at first?’ Think about your group - where could you give similar encouragement to someone else?
- iii. Tolerating ‘Jezebel’¹ (v. 20) was Jesus’ first complaint for the church. Her teaching was like Balaam, which said it was OK to follow Jesus *and* practice idolatry & adultery.
 - a. Think over the last year. What people, podcasts, preachers, books, social media feeds, etc. shaped your understanding of Jesus and what it means to follow Him?
 - b. Over the last year, did you encounter someone or something that was similar to Jezebel – that it was OK to follow Jesus *and* pursue money / pleasure / power / etc.?

¹ Likely a real person, but likely *not* her real name

- iv. Jesus promises that those who are victorious will rule the nations. In Psalm 2, it says that the “Son of God” will rule the nations. This promise is that the victorious will join Jesus in His reign!
 - a. Imagine reigning is like going with Jesus to ‘Take Your Kid to Work Day.’ What would that look like?

Consider Breaking Into Smaller Groups for This Section

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 image or idea do you keep returning to?
- b. Can someone re-read verse 23?
 - i. Think of times you been misunderstood, or wanted to do more than you were able, or had your motivations questioned. How does this comfort you?
 - ii. Think of the secret parts of your life. How is this verse convicting? Is there something in your heart and mind that you would rather keep secret from Jesus?
- c. The ‘teaching of Jezebel’ was similar to Balaam. She taught that it was OK to follow Jesus *and* engage in sexual immorality² or idolatry.
 - i. Do your sources of authority (e.g. people, podcasts, leaders, preachers, books, social media feeds, etc.) point you towards Jesus? Do they open the door for compromise?
 - ii. Is there sexual immorality or idolatry in your own life, even if just in your heart or mind? If so, what would it look like to confess and repent (v. 22)?
- d. Jesus promises that those who overcome will receive the morning star. In Revelation 22:16, Jesus is called the morning star. In other words, the promise is that the victorious who do Jesus’ will to the end will receive Jesus Himself. Where do you need to experience Jesus “with you” these days?

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 “Sexual immorality” includes any sexual action, thought, or intention outside of marriage between a man and a woman.