

All Things New: The Woman, the Child, and the Dragon

Revelation 12

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 different that happened this week?

2. Revelation 8 to 11 described the series of 7 trumpets. Before moving on to chapter 12, what themes stick out to you from the trumpet judgements?

3. “With that in mind, let’s read chapter 12. 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?”

4. “What images stick out to you from this chapter? What questions does it bring up?”

5. “If you heard the sermon this week, what helps you understand or apply this passage?”

6. “Revelation is closely connected to the Old Testament. Can someone read Psalm 2:7-9? Then can someone else read Exodus 19:4-6?

What similarities and differences do you see between these verses and Revelation 12?”

7. “Revelation 12 is presented in the form of “signs” appearing in heaven.¹ A sign is something that “points beyond itself to a greater reality”.²

When has a picture, film, story, or symbol helped you understand something?

What “sign” or symbol has felt especially powerful for you from Revelation so far? What greater reality did it point to?”

¹ Revelation 12:1, 3.

² Darrell Johnson *Discipleship On The Edge* p. 231.

8. "This passage features three main characters: A woman in labour, a red dragon, and a child.

What stands out to you about each character's description in the text?

Where do each of these characters "end up"?"

9. "The woman (who symbolizes Eve, Mary, and the church) gives birth to a child (who represents Jesus). A red dragon (who represents Satan) wages war against Jesus but is thrown down and unable to touch Him. "1260 days" suggests a limited amount of time where Satan still wages war against God's people but has already been defeated by Jesus. This is the time period we live in today. Through this time period, God gives His people protection and care.

What do you find easy or challenging about recognizing God's protection in your life?

Has there been a time when God has protected you or someone else (even if you've only noticed it afterwards)? If so, share it with your group."

Optional: Break into smaller groups for this section

10. "Things like fear, shame, doubts, or addictions can sometimes feel like they relentlessly pursue us, just like the dragon pursued the woman.

How do you tell the difference between a "just a tough day" and spiritual opposition?

Scripture tells us that we are loved, chosen, forgiven, redeemed, and given a hope and a future. Is there one of these truths, or a different truth, you have a hard time believing?

Are you facing any other fears, shame, doubts, or addictions that could be spiritual opposition?"

11. "How does God's victory over Satan impact the way that you pray? (e.g., If God has already won, why do we even need to pray? Have you ever prayed against something evil? How often do you ask others to pray for you in whatever spiritual battles you are facing?)"

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

13. "Thanks everyone! Same time next week? Who will lead / host / bring snacks?"