

## STUDY QUESTIONS FOR WEEK ONE OF THE REVELATION BIBLE STUDY

What dream, dreamt recently or long ago, can you still recall and what do you think it means?

In 1:5, John says that Christ loves us and has done three things for us:

- 1) Freed us from our sins—In your life, how have you experienced freedom from sin?
- 2) Made us to be a kingdom—Through your faith, do you get the sense that you are a part of something bigger and more formidable than the daily push and pull of the world around you? How might this have been especially empowering for the Christians living in the Roman Empire in the first century?
- 3) Made us to be priests to serve God—What was a priest's job in the ancient Jewish tradition? What does it look like for us to fulfill a priestly role in the world as people of faith?

In 2:1-7, what is the weakness of the church in Ephesus? Was there an earlier time in your life when you felt spiritually stronger and closer to God? What does Christ, through John's vision, direct the Ephesians to do?

In 2:8-11, what is the condition of the church in Smyrna? Regardless of how you're doing economically, in what ways do you feel rich? How does Christ encourage them?

In 2:12-17, how does John commend the church in Pergamum? What cultural influences distract you from your relationship with God? What does Christ promise for those who overcome?

In 2:18-29, what is the church in Thyatira doing right? What is it doing wrong? Some of the pagan rituals in this time period involved temple prostitution. In what way are people sexually exploited today? How can people of faith respond to such situations? What is promised to those who overcome?

In 3:1-6, what is the contrast between reputation and reality at the church in Sardis? When is the last time you reflected on your own behaviors and admitted to yourself that you were being hypocritical? What is demanded of the church in Sardis?

In 3:7-13, for the church in Philadelphia, what do you think it means that Christ says, "I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut?" What open doors has Christ placed before you?

In 3:14-22, what is the criticism of the folks at the church in Laodicea? What will happen as a result? What does it mean to be neither hot or cold, especially for those who say, "I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing?"

