

NMBC Small groups - week beginning 15th September 2019

We begin a new series studying the whole book of Revelation.

1 Revelation 1:1-11 In exile... 'because of the Word of God' *"The suffering & kingdom & patient endurance" 1:9*

Opening worship/meditation

We began the service on Sunday reading **Revelation 5:6-14**.

You may like to read this again together as a worshipful opening.

Starter

Simply read 1:3... as an encouragement in starting our new study series!

Then possibly draw out members' previous experience of Revelation, positive & negative!

What do we find a challenge, and difficult, and even forbidding, in this book?

Read Revelation 1:1-11

1 Focus first on **the writer**:

Can you recall **John's experiences as a disciple of Jesus?** [e.g. Mark 1:19; 9:2; 14:32-33]

Many of the apostles have died because of their faith. John is a survivor in old age.

How does he describe his situation in 1:9?

Imagine what lies behind each of the words and phrases John uses?

2 Focus now on **the purpose of this book**:

What is **its key subject**, given in the first phrase? 1:1

What do you think John means when he says "**what must soon take place**"?

Who is it written for? 1:4 Read 2:10 and 3:10.

Share members' awareness of Christians across the world in similar situations today.

3 Focus on the "**revelation from Jesus Christ**" and the "**testimony of Jesus Christ**".

What are the headlines that John gives about **our understanding of Jesus?**

Let each member of the group choose a **separate phrase describing Jesus** from 1:5-7.

Now go around the group asking each to read out their phrase, and all suggest how you would explain the meaning of it to an enquirer unfamiliar with Christian thinking.

4 Focus on **our part in God's purpose**

Jesus Christ has "**made us to be a 'kingdom' and 'priests' to serve his God and Father**". 1:6

How would you define our role in serving God today from these two expressions?

[If you would like to prepare ahead there's a helpful overview of the first half of Revelation in this Bible Project video lasting 11 mins: www.youtube.com/watch?v=5nvVVcYD-0w]

A time of the year for special prayer

- Children, young people, & students facing new experiences as they begin the year.
- All school staff members in our church family.
- Activity groups restarting - pray for those groups your members are involved in.
- The dinner evening with JB Gill on Tuesday 24th September.
- The new Alpha course starts on Mon 30th September - pray for people to be drawn in.
- Pray for persecuted & imprisoned Christians in their "suffering & patient endurance".