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# REVELATION

GOD IS IN CONTROL OF ALL THINGS

## FAMILY CONVERSATION GUIDE

### THE THEME

God is in control of all things.

### JANUARY MEMORY VERSE

I am the “Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty.” **Revelation 1:8 ESV**

### JANUARY CHALLENGE VERSE

“Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in.” **Revelation 3:20a NIV**

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### JANUARY 28 - LIFE APPLICATION

Jesus wants His church and His people to be **overcomers** in this world.

## NOTE TO PARENTS

In the **Book of Revelation**, John, the disciple loved by Jesus, is given words and visions of heaven and Jesus, and prophecies about the end of times. Remind your family that **God has a plan**, is over all things, knows all things, and He is with us through all things. Please read the scripture and listen to the sermon, in person or online, before discussing with your family. If this guide is too much in one sitting, break it up and talk through the questions throughout the week.

### DISCUSS:

Before meeting with your family, read **Matthew 13:1-13**. In simple words, tell them the parable Jesus taught about the wheat and the tares. **Explain:** In the church there are people who are like the **wheat and the tares**. Those who are fruitful are the wheat. Their lives are rooted in Jesus. They love him. They are doing good works and they tell others about Jesus. Those who are not fruitful but pretend to be faithful followers of Jesus are like the tares. Tares are actually weeds. On the outside, they look like wheat. But they are not. They can't bear any fruit, much less bear fruit for Jesus. Their lives are not rooted in him.

### The Church at Sardis – an example of wheat and tares

(This church is in a place that is godless and pagan, where they are surrounded by people who worship Caesar and Dionysius instead of Jesus.)

1. Read **Revelation 3:1-2**. Ask your family what is good and what is bad about the church at Sardis.

#### Good:

- They have good works.
- They have a good reputation

#### Bad:

- Their works are not complete in God's sight.
- Their faith is "dead"- not alive and thriving. Most were not born again and did not love Jesus deeply in their hearts. (These were the "tares" in the church.)

2. Read **verse 3**. **What did Jesus tell the church/tares they needed to do?**

- Wake up.
  - Strengthen what remains of their faith.
  - Remember when they first heard the gospel of Jesus and the purpose of the church.
  - Repent and turn from their sin.
3. But, in **verses 4-5**, Jesus said there were still some who were faithful followers of Jesus (the wheat). **What did He promise those who have remembered their faith in Jesus and who were fruitful?** *(They will walk with Him in white garments which means they will walk in victory with Him forever, and their name will never be blotted from the Book of Life. They will live forever with Jesus in heaven).*

### The Church at Philadelphia

4. **Have you ever heard of Philadelphia?** *(It's a city in Pennsylvania, but in those days there was also a place called Philadelphia.)* **Do you know what "Philadelphia" means?** *(It means "brotherly love.")* This city was at the center of a commercial route to Asia, and many people traveled through there. So it was a great place to share about Jesus and have the gospel taken around the world. He called it an "open door." Read **Revelation 3: 7-11**.
5. In **verse 7**, John described Jesus. List the ways He is described in this verse:
- The Holy One
  - The True One
  - He holds the key of David - the key to the treasury or storehouse of all the blessings of Heaven.
  - He opens and shuts all doors. He has absolute sovereignty over all things, but also over opening the doors to people's hearts to receive Him.
6. Let's see what Jesus had to say through John to the church at Philadelphia in **verses 8-13**. Again, list good and bad things Jesus had to say.

#### Good:

- He loves their works, the good things they do.
- He loves how they want open doors because they want people to know Jesus (evangelism).
- The church is little in size but they have great power. See **2 Corinthians 12:9** - Jesus's power is perfected in our weakness.
- They kept Jesus's Word.
- They never denied His name.

## Bad:

Jesus didn't have anything bad to say about the church at Philadelphia! It's one of the only two churches of which He had nothing bad to say! Do you remember the other church from last week's lesson? (*Smyrna*)

7. In **Revelation 3:12**, Jesus tells the church what He has for **overcomers**, or conquerors. Read together, then list. These promises are also for those of us who love and serve Jesus!
  - The people who lied, who are "tares" - not really believers in Jesus who persecuted the believers - will one day bow at the feet of those who love Jesus.
  - Because they (we) kept His Word, they (we) will be kept from the hour of trial at the end of times. (This could mean the rapture of believers)
  - They (we) will be pillars in God's temple in heaven - meaning eternal security and strength.
  - God's name will be written on them (us) - they (we) will be His forever.
  - Their (our) names will be on the temple in New Jerusalem - their (our) new citizenship in heaven!
  - They (we) will have their (our) own new name. We will have intimacy (closeness) forever with Jesus!

**How does it make you feel to know that the promises Jesus gave to the church at Philadelphia can also be His promises to us?**

## FAMILY CHALLENGE

Give everyone a stone - white if possible! Using paint pens, have everyone write their names on one side. On the other side, ask them to imagine their beautiful, heavenly name. They can write it or they may want to think about it - maybe draw a cloud or something beautiful on that side, signifying new life with Jesus in heaven!

## PRAYER

*Dear Jesus, Thank You for Your letters to the churches. We know that the things You say to them You mean also for us and for our church. **Help us to be overcomers and conquerors, for You!** In Your precious Name we pray, Amen.*