

---

# REVELATION

GOD IS IN CONTROL OF ALL THINGS

## FAMILY CONVERSATION GUIDE

### THE THEME

God is in control of all things.

### FEBRUARY MEMORY 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**

### FEBRUARY CHALLENGE VERSE

“Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God almighty, who was, and is, and is to come.” **Revelation 4:8b NIV**

---

### FEBRUARY 11 - LIFE APPLICATION

Jesus wants His church and His people to be ready!

## NOTE TO PARENTS

**Scripture:** Revelation 4:1, 2; Thessalonians 4:13-18

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 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.

In this week's message, we go to **1 Thessalonians chapter 4**. Paul was in Thessalonica and he had spent about three weeks there, spending a lot of time teaching about eschatology, or the End of Times. The church was going through a lot of tribulation and persecution because of their love for Jesus, and Paul wanted to encourage them that they could still have hope because Jesus could come back at any time. When you talk with your family about the End of Times, be sure to **give them hope instead of fear**. In this passage, we learn that those who love Jesus will go to heaven with Him, even if they die before His return.

### DISCUSS:

1. Read **Revelation 4:1**. The first words are "after this." **After what, do you think?** In **Revelation 2 and 3**, Jesus had John write letters to the seven churches. Then, something happened. Listen as I read, and then tell me who you think was talking to John and why. (*The voice was Jesus and He was speaking "like a trumpet," telling John to "come up here."*) **What did Jesus want to show John?** (*"I will show you what will happen after this."*)
2. Read **verse 2**. **How did John get to where Jesus was?** (*Suddenly, he was there!*) **What had changed about John?** (*He was "in the spirit."*) **What do you think this means?** (*Discuss.*) **And, what did he see?** (*He was in the throne room of God, and someone was sitting on the throne.*) Wow! **Can you imagine what it must have been like to be in heaven, and to see the throne room of God?**
3. In the sermon, our pastor goes from this scene in Revelation to **1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18**. This was another revealing of God's plan for us at the End of Times through Paul's letter to the Thessalonian church. **In verse 13, why did Paul say he was going to tell them about what would happen?** (*So they would know what would happen, and have hope even though people they loved "are asleep," or had passed away. He said they did not*

*need to be sad!)*

4. **In verses 14 and 15, what did Paul say would happen to those who believed Jesus had died and rose again?** *(God, through Jesus, would bring them with Him.)* It says that they “have preceded us.” **What do you think that means?** *(They will go to heaven with Jesus before us. And, they will return with Jesus when He comes for us! They are not sleeping, but alive! They had faced the last great enemy, death, with faith, and are alive.)*
5. **What will happen when Jesus returns for those who haven’t died?** *(See **verse 16** - we will hear a loud shout [command], like the archangel, and the sound of a trumpet. The dead will arise to be with Jesus first, and come with Him to us. They aren’t “asleep” - or dead - but they are very much alive!)*
6. **And, what will happen to those who are still alive and are followers of Christ when He returns?** *(We will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and we will always be with Him.)* Paul told this to the church to give them great hope, and he wanted them to encourage each other in knowing this - see **verse 18**.
7. **What does the word “tribulation” mean?** *(To have troubles, worries, and bad things to happen to us.)* **Do we have tribulation while we are here in the world? Let’s talk about some things that happen in the world or to us. Do you believe that Jesus is with you and that He cares for you even in the hard times?**
8. In the End Times, there will be a Great Tribulation, worse than anything we have seen before, and we will learn more about that in the weeks to come. But Jesus wants us to know that **we do not need to fear**, because He will rapture us (“snatch us away” to be with Him as is described in **1 Thessalonians 4:17**) and we will not have to experience the Great Tribulation. You’ll be with your mom and dad and others who love Jesus who will take care of you forever. You should never fear death. It’s like going to sleep and waking up with Jesus holding you. And - you need to remember to never fear anything here. Jesus has the whole world and all human history in His hands, and He loves you so much!
9. Finally, Jesus wants His church and His people to **always be ready**. We don’t know when He will return, but we know that He will. Let’s make sure we are loving as Jesus loved all those around us, so that he will find us doing the right thing.

## FAMILY CHALLENGE

1. Parents, read the parable Jesus told in **John 14:1-3**, where Jesus promises to prepare a place for us. The bridegroom is Jesus and the bride is the church. He prepares a place for His bride and then goes to get her and bring her home with Him to live with Him forever!
2. Our Life Application this week is: **“Jesus wants His church and His people to be ready!”** How can we “be ready” for Jesus when He comes back?
  - Make a list of things you would want to be doing when Jesus comes back. (For example, we should be staying in a close relationship with Him, doing good things in this world, loving and caring for others and telling them about Him.)
  - Then list the things you would NOT want to be doing when He returns! (For example, talking about other people, being mean or selfish, not praying or reading your Bible, not telling others about Him, loving other things more than our love for Him.)

## PRAYER

*Jesus, we know that You love us and that You will be with us forever. Thank You for telling us what will come so that we can have hope in this world, even when bad things happen. You died so that we could be forgiven and live our lives pleasing You. In Your name we pray, Amen.*