

2022 Community Groups

WEEKLY GUIDE

Is your group
serving
together?

Great Serve
Opportunity

Virtual
Mission Trip to
Kenya
2/7-2/11
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January 16

Happy New Year! Welcome to the continuation of our sermon series on the book of Revelation. The title Pastor Aaron has chosen is "Fight by Faith". Over the next several weeks we will dive into the rest of this amazing book about the revelation of Jesus. We will read and hear about a great deal of imagery in these scriptures that may seem strange, but it's important to remember that this is apocalyptic literature which is ultimately meant to remind us about who Jesus is and why following him is the best decision we can make.

Community Prayer:

Lord, as we look at these passages, we ask for your help and guidance so that we keep our focus on you. We want to know you more and we want to know each other better as a result of our time together. We ask for your wisdom to guide us through our time of study and sharing. In Jesus' name, Amen

Opening Questions:

1. Do you have a favorite superhero movie? If so, what is it and why?
2. If you could have a superpower, what would it be and why?

EXPLORATION

Read the scriptures below. (Have someone read aloud from their bible)

It is important to keep in mind that the goal is not to construct a timeline. This chapter helps us focus on the truth that as long as we live in this world, followers of Jesus will find themselves in a battle. However, the outcome of the battle is certain, Jesus has already won. On the cross and through resurrection from the dead, Jesus defeated sin, hell, and the grave.

Revelation 12:1-3

This is a powerful description of good vs. evil. The woman represents good and the red dragon represents evil.

"The birth giving woman and the death dealing dragon are the light year limits of the best and the worst we can imagine." Eugene Petersen

3. Where do you see the battle of good vs. evil in your day-to-day life?



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Revelation 12:7-9

This is a powerful description of Satan's defeat!

"The war in heaven is won through an event on earth, through the birth of the child on earth. The war is won through the life of the child. The war is won through the preaching, teaching, healing ministry of the child. The war is won through the crucifixion of the child. The war is won through the resurrection of the child." Darrel Johnson

4. How does knowing the war is already won influence how you live your day-to-day life?

Revelation 12:10

The devil is committed to destroying as many people as possible, even though his fate is already sealed.

The way the devil goes after God's people (Darrel Johnson)

- **Accuse** - in verse 10 the dragon hassles God's people, he is referred to as the slanderer.
- **Deceive** - he wants to convince people that he is God, even though he knows he is not and will never be God.
- **Kill** - this is why he is described as red, the color of blood.

Satan has been defeated; he has been shown to be a liar. However, some people love lies more than they love truth. It has always been that way. Others are not aware of the deception they live under; they are deaf to truth. Still others have chosen to listen to the wrong voice, the voice of the accuser instead of the voice of truth.

5. What are some of the lies that keep people from living their life as fully devoted followers of Jesus?
6. Are there any distractions that are particularly difficult for you? If you are comfortable, share these with the group.

In John 8:42-44, Jesus is speaking to the religious rulers of the day who were actively opposing Jesus and his message of truth. "If God were your Father, you would love me, for I have come here from God. I have not come on my own; God sent me. Why is my language not clear to



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you? Because you are unable to hear what I say. You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies."

7. Have you ever experienced someone who claimed to be a follower of Jesus, yet was not filled with love? If so, share about that experience and the impact it had on you.

Revelation 12:11

We see here that Satan is defeated by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony. The word "testimony" here refers to one's character and reputation.

8. What kind of testimony or reputation do you hope to have?
9. How are you intentionally allowing God to transform your character so that your testimony is shaped more by Jesus than by the values and pressures of this world?
10. Who or what would you be willing to sacrifice or die for?

This is ultimately an issue of love. God loves us so much that while we were still lost in sin, he sent Jesus to die for us. When we understand this truth, we can move forward in confidence, even when circumstances are difficult. Death no longer has power over us, because Jesus has paid the price.

Revelation 12:17

As we keep God's commands and hold fast to our faith in Jesus we live in opposition to the plans of "the dragon" or Satan. We cannot be surprised when opposition comes our way.

1 John 5:2-4 says, "This is how we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and carrying out his commands. In fact, this is love for God: to keep his commands. And his commands are not burdensome, for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith."

2 Corinthians 10:3-5 "For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the ruler, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms."



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Even though Satan has some power, that power does not compare to the ultimate power of God! As God's people we must remember that the battle has already been won and we have access to "divine power" through Jesus Christ.

11. What are some ways you prioritize your relationship to Jesus that help you "overcome" when times are hard?
 - a. What are the daily spiritual practices in your life?

The Takeaway:

The ultimate battle has already been won. God has triumphed over Satan. But the reality of life's struggles is also very real. Satan would like nothing more than to keep as many people away from the truth of God's love as possible. We need to remember that Satan has a plan to accuse, deceive and kill those who are committed to God, but God's people have access to "divine power" through Jesus Christ!

Satan's Plan

- Accuse
- Deceive
- Kill

God's People Stand By:

Holding fast to the word of their testimony
Faithfully keeping God's commands
Surrendering our lives to God daily

Prayer Request
