

This guide is an invitation to follow Jesus with greater purpose and hope. It will help you to explore the scriptures and challenge you to live out your faith. Each week we'd love for you to think about how you relate: **Up** (with God), **In** (with church) and **Out** (with neighbors).



Weekly Questions:

- How is God getting my attention? For help, think about these areas:
- How are you living up with God?
- How are you living in community with other followers of Jesus?
- How are you living out on mission with your neighbors?
- What are you going to do about it?

Revelation: Salvation Belongs to God

Revelation 6-8a

- **The Four Horsemen: The World's Resistance.** In Revelation 6, the Lamb begins opening the seven seals. As the first four are opened, four horses and their riders emerge, representing the primary ways humanity resists the ways of Jesus: **Conquest, Violence, Economic Hardship, and Death.** When you look at global or personal turmoil, do you see God "doing" these things, or do you see humanity's resistance to the Kingdom of God? In what ways do you feel tempted to rely on "Horseman power" (control, winning, or status) to find security in a chaotic world or chaotic relationships?
- **The Martyrs.** The fifth and sixth seals reveal a different reality: the souls of those slain for their testimony under the altar, and a cosmic "heaven-quake" where even kings and generals hide in fear. The martyrs as "How long?"—have you ever had a time in life where you asked God how long you had to endure a hardship or suffering? If judgment is God giving us the freedom to experience the consequences of our own actions or letting us be our own gods, can you describe a time you felt this judgment in your life or relationships? Are there places where Christians tend to hide from God or one another when things are tough?
- **The Great Multitude.** Before the final seal is opened, the vision expands to a great multitude that no one can count—from every nation, tribe, people, and language. They have washed their robes in the blood of the Lamb. What does it mean that God's kingdom in heaven includes people, more than we can count, from every nation, culture, race, language, and people? How do we understand God's leadership through the lens of the Lamb who was slain that leads us to springs of living water and wipes our tears? What do we learn about who God is by seeing Jesus as the slain Lamb?
- **Practice: Choosing the Lamb**
This week, identify a situation where you feel the urge to act like one of the horsemen—to exert "Lion power," demand your own way, or use "vitriol and vanity" to win. Intentionally choose a "Lamb" response instead. Instead of conquest or control, practice sacrificial love.
 - Instead of the "last word," practice **humility and service.**
 - Remember that your life is an **apocalypse** (an unveiling) to others of who Jesus is.