



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: Slaying the Beasts

Revelation 12-16

- **The Dragon & Beasts: The Power of Coercion.** Revelation 12–13 introduces us to the "unholy trinity": the Dragon, the Beast from the Sea (political/coercive power), and the Beast from the Earth (ideology/propaganda). These represent the systems that demand our ultimate allegiance through fear, economic pressure, or deceptive "winning." The Beast from the Sea uses raw power and violence, while the Beast from the Earth makes that power look attractive, inevitable, and even "holy." Where do you see "beastly" power at work in our world today? In what ways are you tempted to trust in political power, status, or "the way things are" rather than the Way of the Lamb?
- **The Way of the Overcomer: Blood & Testimony.** In Revelation 12:11, we are told how the people of God defeat the Dragon: "by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death." This is a "Reversed Victory." We don't slay the beasts with more "beastly" weapons; we overcome them by remaining faithful to Jesus, even when it costs us. Your "testimony" isn't just a story about your past; it is the "apocalypse" (the unveiling) of Jesus through your current choices. What is an example of a time in your life when you lived like Jesus and it was costly? Can you think of an example in someone else's life when they lived like Jesus and it was costly? What does the apocalypse of your life look like to others? Is your life currently a "testimony" to the power of the Lamb, or does it look more like a mirror of the world's anxiety and self-protection?
- **The Seven Bowls: The Full Harvest.** Revelation 15–16 describes the seven bowls of God's wrath. Following the "one-fourth" (seals) and "one-third" (trumpets), these represent the "fullness" of judgment—the natural end result of a world that refuses to repent and continues to worship the beasts. Judgment in Revelation is often God giving humanity exactly what it has insisted upon: a world without God's grace, where the "beastly" systems finally consume themselves. How does the reality of "reaping what we sow" change how you view your daily habits, your speech, and your treatment of others?
- **Practice: The Lamb's Mark**
In Revelation, people are marked either with the "Mark of the Beast" (allegiance to the system) or the "Seal of the Lamb" (allegiance to Jesus). This week, practice "unveiling" the Lamb in your life through these intentional acts:
 - **Audit Your Tools:** Identify a situation where you are tempted to use "Dragon tools" (gossip, accusation, manipulation, or "cancel culture") to get your way. Intentionally lay those tools down and choose the "blood of the Lamb" path—sacrificial love and forgiveness.

- **Speak the Testimony:** In a conversation where it would be easier to be cynical or fearful, share a "word of testimony" about where you see God working or how Jesus is giving you hope.
- **Live the Mission:** Identify one mundane, "un-glamorous" act of service you can do for someone who can offer you nothing in return. This is how we follow the Lamb "wherever he goes."