



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH ASHLAND

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 8b-11

- **The Trumpets: Warning Signs.** In Revelation 8–9, angels blow seven trumpets to warn the world of judgment. Unlike total destruction, these judgments often affect only "one-third," showing that even in warning, God's withdrawal is covered with mercy. When you experience "thundersnow" moments—terrifying or complicated events in the world—do you see them as a call to repent and change direction? One of the most mature signs of following Jesus is the willingness to admit when you are wrong. Is there an area of your life where you have been "hardening your heart" instead of turning toward the Lamb?
- **The Little Scroll: Sweet & Sour.** In Revelation 10, John is asked to eat a small scroll that tastes like honey but turns his stomach sour. This represents the dual nature of God's word: it is beautiful and promising, yet challenging to live out in a resistant world. If people were to "apocalypse" that is, uncover your life, what would it reveal to others about Jesus? Who is someone you think of whose life reveals Jesus by their actions and attitudes?
- **The Two Witnesses: Power in Faithful Resistance.** Revelation 11 describes two witnesses who prophesy, are overcome by evil, but are eventually raised to life by the "breath of life from God". This vision shows that the "temple of God" is now the people of God. Victory does not come through the tools of empires (violence or conquest) but through shared suffering and resurrection power. When it appears that evil is in control, do you find yourself tempted to use "empire tools" to win, or can you trust in the "slain Lamb" who overcomes the enemy by letting the enemy overcome him? How can we read the judgment stories in light of Jesus' life, death and resurrection?
- **Practice: Choosing the Path of the Cross**
 - This week, identify a source of noise in your life—perhaps social media or news—that manufactures anxiety and tells you the world is broken. Intentionally choose a "resurrection response":
 - Close the screen: walk outside, talk to a neighbor, serve in your community.
 - Repent and realign: identify one way of life you have put before Jesus and consciously turn back to guidance from Jesus.
 - Live the mission: practice the generosity of Jesus in a mundane and everyday interaction.

