

# Context Matters

## I. Check-In

- Check in. How is everyone doing?
- Reflect on last week's challenge: *Read through Revelation 1:9-3:22. Take notes for nexts weeks conversation.*

## II. Scripture

The Message to Ephesus “To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: These are the words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand, who walks among the seven golden lampstands: “I know your works, your toil and your endurance. I know that you cannot tolerate evildoers; you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not and have found them to be false. I also know that you are enduring and bearing up for the sake of my name and that you have not grown weary. But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first. Remember, then, from where you have fallen; repent and do the works you did at first. If not, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent. Yet this is to your credit: you hate the works of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. Let anyone who has an ear listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches. To everyone who conquers, I will give permission to eat from the tree of life that is in the paradise of God.

### Revelation 2:1-7

After this I looked, and there in heaven a door stood open! And the first voice, which I had heard speaking to me like a trumpet, said, “Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this.” At once I was in the spirit, and there in heaven stood a throne, with one seated on the throne! And the one seated there looks like jasper and carnelian, and around the throne is a rainbow that looks like an emerald.” Around the throne are twenty-four thrones, and seated on the thrones are twenty-four elders, dressed in white robes, with golden crowns on their heads. Coming from the throne are flashes of lightning and rumblings and peals of thunder, and in front of the throne burn seven flaming torches, which are the seven spirits of God, and in front of the throne there is something like a sea of glass, like crystal.

### Revelation 4:1-5

## V. Prayer Requests

Spend some time sharing prayer requests with each other. As the small group leader, we ask that you do two things:

1. write them down
2. ask someone to pray

## IV. Challenge

Read one of the following selections and be prepared to talk about it next week:

Revelation 6-8a | Revelation 8b-11 | Revelation 15-16

## III. Discussion Questions

- When have you misinterpreted a situation because you didn't understand the context of the situation. What was that experience like?
- The genre of letter is Apocalyptic Prophecy. Why does an understanding of the books genre make a difference? Did it for you?
- Pastor Fernie mentions that context matters in order to understand scripture. What in the scriptures for today seem to make no sense if you tried to connect them to a modern day situation?
- The audience of Revelation would have easily been able to see the connections between this letter and their experience at the Domitian Games. What, if any, did this knowledge change for you?
- The main message of the beginning of the book of Revelation is the reminder that God is on the throne and everything will be okay. Does the understanding of this message change your views of this book?