

# Introduction with Dr. Besworth

## I. Check-In

- Check in. How is everyone doing? How was Mardi Gras? Did you attend the Ash Wednesday service? If so, what was your takeaway?

## 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

## II. Scripture

The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants what must soon take place, and he made it known by sending his angel to his servant John, who testified to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, even to all that he saw. Blessed is the one who reads the words of the prophecy, and blessed are those who hear and who keep what is written in it, for the time is near. John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood and made us a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. Look! He is coming with the clouds; every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all the tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. So it is to be. Amen. "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

I, John, your brother who share with you the persecution and the kingdom and the endurance in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. I was in the spirit on the Lord's day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet saying, "Write in a book what you see, and send it to the seven churches, to Ephesus, to Smyrna, to Pergamum, to Thyatira, to Sardis, to Philadelphia, and to Laodicea."

**Revelation 1:1-11**

## IV. Challenge

Read through Revelation 1:9-3:22. Take notes for nexts weeks conversation.

## III. Discussion Questions

- What initial thoughts do you have about the book?
- Have you ever read the book of Revelation? Why or why not?
- If you had to summarize your understanding of the book of Revelation, what would you say it is about?
- Throughout history, people have used the term "apocalypse" to talk about the end of the world. But Dr. Betsworth reminded us that "apocalyptic literature is the story of God breaking into the world in a dramatic way and bringing an end to the cosmic struggle between God and evil." What difference does it make to understand the book of Revelation as the book of God breaking through rather than the end of the world?
- Revelation was written by John, but it's a different John than the one who wrote the gospel of John or 1 & 2 John. What difference does this make for you as you read Revelation