



SOUTHERN CROSS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

growing followers of Jesus

SERIES COMPANION TERM 4 2019

REVELATION KINGDOM COME

1	OCT 20	SEVEN CHURCHES	REVELATION 1-3
2	OCT 27	THE THRONE & THE LAMB	REVELATION 4-5
3	NOV 3	HISTORY REPEATS	REVELATION 6-9
4	NOV 10	VICTORY THROUGH SUFFERING	REVELATION 10-11
5	NOV 17	SEVEN SIGNS: THE VIEW FROM EARTH	REVELATION 12-14
6	NOV 24	VISION SUNDAY	
7	DEC 1	SEVEN BOWLS	REVELATION 15-16
8	DEC 8	BABYLON THE PROSTITUTE	REVELATION 17:1-19:10
9	DEC 15	SEVEN SIGNS: THE VIEW FROM HEAVEN	REVELATION 19:11-21:8
10	DEC 22	JERUSALEM THE BRIDE	REVELATION 21:9-22:21

KINGDOM COME

There are few (if any) books of the Bible that inspire more intense passions than the book of Revelation. Love, fear, confusion, ridicule; there aren't many people who just shrug their shoulders and say "yeah, I guess its alright". So I have to admit that when Leadership Team decided that we'd study Revelation in Term 4 I was more than a little daunted by the task!

But in preparing these studies I've come to see what an appropriate ending Revelation provides for the Bible and also for our BiG 2019. Revelation is a book that's all about Jesus—no surprises there I guess! But what a Jesus! He's magnificent, awesome and glorious! He's faithful, powerful and invincible! Above all, he is worthy—worthy of our praise. And not just words of praise when he returns, but a life of praise until he returns, followed by an eternity of praise as we enjoy forever with him in the New Creation.

As we study Revelation together, my hope & prayer is that far from creating controversy and confusion, this special part of God's word will unite us through its grand vision of all that was & is & is to come and enable us to live together faithfully on earth as we await the certain return of Christ and his permanent, perfect kingdom.



How to be growing followers of Jesus as you study God's Word...

In community

It's good to study the Bible by yourself but it's even better to do it with friends. Bible study is best when it happens in the context of community. Bible study shouldn't be just an unrelated add-on to the rest of your busy life, it should be an essential part of an integrated whole—Christian friends doing what Christian friends do. There are two key ways we should be making use of God's word in community: "word to life" and "life to word".

Word to life

When we study the Bible together we're letting God set the agenda. That's very important! We listen to God speak in the Bible, we work hard to help each other understand exactly what he's saying, and then together we apply what God is saying to our lives in the confidence that our loving Creator and Redeemer knows what's best for us. The important thing to remember is that we actually need each other throughout this whole process. It's great to study the Bible together!

Life to word

The second crucial way that we should be making use of the Bible in community is in day-to-day conversation, starting with the everyday happenings of our lives and applying the gospel to those situations. The great thing is that the better we get at moving from "word to life", the better we'll get at moving from "life to word" and the more our communities will be shaped by the gospel of Jesus! So enjoy—make the most of it—and let's watch as God shapes us to be more and more like his glorious Son!

1a OPENING

APOCALYPSE (1:1) GREEK: αποκαλυψις

• A TYPE OF JEWISH LITERATURE (EZEKIEL, DANIEL, 4 EZRA, 1 ENOCH)
• **SYMBOLIC VISIONS** THAT REVEAL A HEAVENLY PERSPECTIVE ON HISTORY IN LIGHT OF ITS FINAL OUTCOME



JOHN

THE BELOVED DISCIPLE?
ANOTHER JOHN?

THE REVELATION OF JOHN

ASIA MINOR
LETTER (1:4, 22:21)
SENT TO: **7 CHURCHES**

ITS MEANING FOR US MUST BE ANCHORED IN JOHN'S MEANING FOR THEM.

PROPHET (1:3)

• GOD'S WORD THROUGH A PROPHET
• BRINGS OLD TESTAMENT PROPHECY TO ITS CLIMAX

MEANINGFUL IMAGES DRAWN FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT

1b-3 MESSAGE TO THE 7 CHURCHES

THE SEVEN CHURCHES (SEE ZECHARIAH 4)
EPHESUS, SMYRNA, PERGAMUM, THYATIRA, SARDIS, PHILADELPHIA & LAODICEA

APATHY
PERSECUTION
AFFLUENCE
IMMORALITY

"TRIBULATION" (2:9-10)
DOMITIAN
FAITHFULNESS
COMPROMISE

THE CONQUERORS ARE REWARDED in the NEW CREATION (chs. 21 & 22)

6-16 3 SETS OF 7 DIVINE JUDGMENTS

LITERAL SEQUENCE OF EVENTS (A) (PAST, PRESENT, OR FUTURE) **BUT NOTICE:**

6-8a SEVEN SEALS

WAR CONQUEST FAMINE DEATH

HOW LONG, O LORD?
REST A LITTLE LONGER...

THE DAY OF THE LORD! (ISAIAH 2, JOEL 2)
WHO CAN STAND?
THEY CAN!

(SEE ZECHARIAH ch. 1)

8b-11 SEVEN TRUMPETS

THE EXODUS PLAGUES (SEE EXODUS ch. 7-11)
THE FOUR HORSEMEN

1. NAIL 2. BLOOD 3. POISON WATER 4. DARKNESS 5. DEMON LOCUSTS

THE NATIONS DON'T REPENT (4:20-21)

THE LAMB'S SCROLL
MEASURE THE TEMPLE...
PROTECTION (SEE ZECHARIAH 2)

EAT THIS & PROPHECY. OKAYYYY...

A) LITERAL DESTRUCTION OF JERUSALEM
B) NEW TEMPLE = SYMBOL OF GOD'S PEOPLE (1 CORINTHIANS 3:16, HEBREWS 3:6, 1 PETER 2:4-5)

4-5 THE THRONE OF GOD & THE LAMB

HOLY! HOLY! HOLY!
(SEE ISAIAH 6, EZEKIEL 1, DANIEL 7)

MESSAGE OF THE PROPHETS (ISAIAH 8-16, EZEKIEL 2-3, DANIEL 12)
ABOUT HOW GOD'S KINGDOM WILL COME ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN

WHO CAN OPEN THE SCROLL?
THE LION OF JUDAH! (GENESIS 49:9)
THE ROOT OF DAVID! (ISAIAH 11:1)

SEES HEARS

THE SACRIFICED LAMB
• GOD'S KINGDOM WAS INAUGURATED THROUGH THE CRUCIFIED MESSIAH WHO DIED FOR HIS ENEMIES.
• HIS DEATH WAS CONQUEST OVER EVIL.

12-14 SEVEN SIGNS (=SYMBOLS)

THE COSMIC BATTLE (BASED ON GENESIS 3:15) 12
THE MESSIAH & HIS PEOPLE
THEY CONQUER THE DRAGON THROUGH THE BLOOD OF THE LAMB (12:11)
NOT THE REAL ENEMY

1.) THE ANTI-SHEMA PRAYER OF ALLEGIANCE FROM DEUTERONOMY 6:4-8 WRITTEN ON FOREHEAD & HAND (THOUGHTS) (ACTIONS)
MARK OF THE BEAST = ALLEGIANCE
2.) THE NUMBER 666 = 666 = (NERO) 666 = 666 = (CAESAR) 666 = 666 = (BEAST)

THE EARTHLY BATTLE (BASED ON DANIEL 7:12) 13
MILITARY POWER 666 ECONOMIC MACHINE
BABYLON PERSIA GREECE ROME, e

15-16 SEVEN BOWLS

THE EXODUS PLAGUES (AGAIN!)
BLOOD 2 FIRE 4
SORES 1 BLOOD 3 DARKNESS 5

THE ATTON

ESUS



A SYMBOLIC VISION FOR EVERY GENERATION OF THE CHURCH THAT REVEALS

HISTORY'S PATTERN:

ALL HUMAN KINGDOMS BECOME BABYLON & MUST BE RESISTED

GOD'S PROMISE:

JESUS WILL RETURN TO REMOVE EVIL FROM HIS WORLD

• BOWLS CONTAINED WITHIN 7th TRUMPET, TRUMPETS WITHIN 7th SEAL
 • EACH SET CONCLUDES WITH FINAL JUDGMENT

THE TIME PERIOD BETWEEN JESUS' RESURRECTION & RETURN FROM THREE PERSPECTIVES

7 THE LAMB'S ARMY

MARK GOD'S SERVANTS: the 144,000 MILITARY CENSUS OF 12 TRIBES (SEE NUMBERS 1)

HEARS SEES

ASIANIC ARMY OF GOD'S KINGDOM FROM ALL NATIONS

(SEE GENESIS 17:4)

85

17-19a THE FALL OF BABYLON

BABYLON → ROME'S MILITARY & ECONOMIC POWER → ARCHETYPE OF HUMANITY'S REBELLION AGAINST GOD

BLOOD OF THE INNOCENT (18:24)

BLEND OF OLD TESTAMENT IMAGES DESCRIBING BABYLON, TYRE & EDOM (ISAIAH 13, 23, 34, 47; JEREMIAH 50-51; EZEKIEL 26-27)

TWO WITNESSES PROPHECY... & ARE KILLED... BUT THEN VINDICATED... THE NATIONS DO REPENT

THE SCROLL REVEALS THE CHURCH'S MISSION: IMITATE THE LOVING SACRIFICE OF THE LAMB • GOD'S MERCY BRINGS REPENTANCE

ARMAGEDDON IS NOT A BLOODBATH. JESUS DIED FOR HIS ENEMIES & NOW HOLDS THEM ACCOUNTABLE.

THE MARTYRS VINDICATED... FOR 1,000 YEARS!

THE FINAL BATTLE I (19:11-21) ISAIAH 11:4, 49-52

THE FINAL BATTLE II (20:8-15) THE MARTYRS REIGN... THE FINAL BATTLE II (SEE DANIEL 7)

LITERAL SEQUENCE: 1,000 YEAR KINGDOM, JESUS' RETURN, FINAL JUDGEMENT

THOUSAND YEARS = SYMBOL OF JESUS' PRESENT VICTORY. TWO BATTLES = JESUS' RETURN FROM TWO ANGLES.

THE POINT: JESUS WILL RETURN AS A KING TO DEAL WITH EVIL & VINDICATE HIS FOLLOWERS

THE DRAGON, BABYLON & ALL WHO CHOOSE THEM ARE ETERNALLY QUARANTINED

19b-20 THE FINAL BATTLE

19:11-21 THE FINAL BATTLE I

20:1-7 THE MARTYRS VINDICATED

20:8-15 THE FINAL BATTLE II

THE POINT: JESUS WILL RETURN AS A KING TO DEAL WITH EVIL & VINDICATE HIS FOLLOWERS

14a THE LAMB'S ARMY

THE ETERNAL GOSPEL (14:6)

FEAR GOD & GIVE HIM GLORY!

THE NEW JERUSALEM

14b FINAL JUSTICE

THE GRAIN HARVEST OF GOD'S PEOPLE

THE GRAPE HARVEST OF HUMANITY'S EVIL

THE CHOICE: RESIST BABYLON TO FOLLOW THE LAMB OR FOLLOW THE BEAST & SUFFER ITS DEFEAT

21-22 THE MARRIAGE OF HEAVEN & EARTH

I AM MAKING ALL THINGS NEW. (21:5)

ALL CREATION IS THE TEMPLE OF GOD & THE LAMB

HUMANITY RULES AS GOD'S IMAGE (GENESIS 1:27-28)

THE BRIDE OF THE LAMB

KALEIDOSCOPE OF OLD TESTAMENT PROMISES

- NEW HEAVEN & EARTH (ISAIAH 65:17)
- NEW GARDEN OF EDEN (GENESIS 2, EZEKIEL 47)
- NEW JERUSALEM (ISAIAH 2, ZEPHANIAH 3)

ARMAGEDDON:

LOCATION OF MANY ISRAELITE BATTLES (JUDGES 5:19, 2 KINGS 23:29)

SYMBOL OF REBELLIOUS NATIONS (EZEKIEL 38-39)

16:17-21

created by the Bible Project



Sample “Swedish Method” Study

Preparation Questions

Use these questions to help you work through the passage and discover what God is saying and how it applies to your life. Do this on your own so that you’re ready to share your thoughts when you gather with others.

Read the chapter



BIG IDEA

1. How would you summarise the central message of this passage?

Pay close attention to the logical flow of the passage. If it contains direct teaching (e.g. the NT letters), the most helpful tool in your kitbag is to follow the linking words (e.g. “therefore”, “so”, “but”). If your passage is more descriptive, the logic (and therefore the point) will be less explicit so you’ll need to focus on the flow of the story to work it out. You’ll also want to keep an eye out for significant themes which may be highlighted by repetition or by the use of metaphors or significant words or word families.



WINDOW

2. What did you discover (or recover) in this passage about what God is like and what he’s done?

The Bible is God’s “special revelation”. In it he reveals himself to us so that we can know him. So the Bible is like a WINDOW through which we can see the most glorious view ever beheld—a view of God himself. When we read the Bible we should be keeping the authors purpose in mind—to know him—rather than coming with our own agendas.



MIRROR

3. What did you discover in this passage about yourself or your circumstances?

The Bible also acts like a MIRROR. As we read God’s word and discover what he is like, we should also be looking to discover ourselves. A mirror allows us to see features and parts of ourselves that we wouldn’t otherwise (and perhaps would rather not!) see. The Holy Spirit uses God’s word to shape the way we think about ourselves and our circumstances. The Bible corrects our distorted views with the main purpose of helping us to relate rightly to God and our neighbour.



GOSPEL

4. How does this passage relate to or contribute to your understanding of the gospel and what it means to live according to the gospel?

The Bible, like all good stories, has a shape to it. It has a focus. It has a hero. God’s self-revelation is fulfilled in Jesus. So no matter what part of the Bible we’re reading we’ll only fully understand it when we grasp how it points us to Jesus and enlarges and deepens our understanding of the gospel. Some tools to help in discovering this dimension of a passage are the SALVATION HISTORY tool (asking “what role does this passage play in the grand story of the bible?”); the TYPOLOGY tool (asking “how is this person (or group or situation) a type (or anti-type) of Jesus?”); and the THEMES tool (asking “what gospel themes are central to this passage?”). This can also be a good time to think about personal application—i.e. If this is true about Jesus and his gospel, then what difference should it make to my life?



QUESTIONS

5. What questions has this passage raised for you that remain unanswered?

One of the key skills in Bible discovery is to be inquisitive. Asking questions will help you get the most out of any passage. Whenever you feel any mental discord reading a passage it's a sign that there's still more to discover, so dig in! Any questions that remain unanswered are worthy of group discussion. Such questions might be logical ("I just don't get how the whole passage fits together"); theological ("this doesn't seem to match with my understanding of what the Bible teaches elsewhere"); semantic (I'm not sure I really know how those words are being used); etc...



RESPONSE

6. How should you respond to this passage in your thoughts, attitudes & behavior?

This is perhaps the most important and most neglected aspect of Bible discovery. God has given us his word for a purpose—so that we can know him and be inwardly and then outwardly transformed by our relationship with him. The challenge is that we are insecure and resistant to the hard work of transformation. Because of our insecurity we're reluctant to admit to ourselves and admit to each other what needs to change. Because of our pride and laziness we'd rather deal with "general truths" that are easy to hold at arms length than let the truth come home. But the good news is we CAN change and community is the God-given context for growing followers of Jesus. You should spend more time discussing and praying through this question than any other.



SHARE

7. Who could you share all this with beyond your DNA group?

One of the big obstacles to growing as followers of Jesus is that we don't take our discoveries with us as we go about our everyday lives. And the best antidote to this problem is to be sharing our discoveries with others. Sharing with others is an awesome way of reinforcing our discoveries and driving them deeper down into our lived experience. In addition to the personal benefit, our discoveries have huge potential to deepen our relationships with our friends and to spur them on to be growing followers of Jesus too!



PRAY

Pray for one another in response to what you've discovered in God's word and what you've shared.

Prayer is an ESSENTIAL dimension of every aspect of DNA. Prayer transforms what would otherwise be introspective reflection (preparing on our own) or interpersonal dialogue (talking to each other) into something truly spiritual.

We will only "discover" the powerful truths of a passage if God opens our eyes to see. We will only "nurture" one another effectively if our discussion is shaped by the wisdom of the gospel. We will only "apply" purposefully and powerfully in response to God's word if the Holy Spirit enables true heart change.

So make sure that prayer isn't a rushed activity at the end of your time together. Pray as you prepare. Pray at the beginning, during, AND at the end of your time together. Pray for yourselves and for each other throughout the week. Anyone should feel free to initiate prayer. Everyone should be encouraged to participate in prayer.

And one final piece of advice, don't fall into the trap of "sharing prayer points". It chews up valuable time and tends to put our concerns ahead of God's concerns. If its really important it will have come up already in response to God's word. And if it hasn't you can always just pray for it off the cuff—no point in everyone hearing it twice!



Seven Churches

Kick-off: before jumping into God's WORD, it's worth taking a few minutes to reflect on your own thoughts and attitudes and on the thoughts and attitudes you encounter in the WORLD...

1. They say a picture is worth 1000 words. What images have you found yourself responding to in a powerful way?

2. What are the pressure points from our culture for Christians today?

Discover: the "D" in DNA stands for DISCOVER. It's now time to read God's word and discover what God wants to teach us and why it matters...

READ Revelation 1-3

3. John writes against the backdrop of the glories of Rome. How does he use the opening chapter to remind his readers of what true glory looks like?

4. What aspects of John's vision of the risen Christ particularly comfort you? Which of them disturb or challenge you?

5. Fill out the following table for the 7 churches.

	Christ	Commendation	Rebuke	Exhortation	Promise
Ephesus					
Smyrna					
Pergamum					
Thyatira					
Sardis					
Philadelphia					
Laodicea					

6. What overall themes emerge from these seven letters?

Nurture & Apply: the "NA" in DNA stands for Nurture & Apply. These questions are designed to help us care for each other and live out God's word...

7. If Jesus were writing a letter to OUR church like the seven in these chapters, what encouragements & rebukes do you think he might include?

8. Of the pressure points you noted in question 2, which do you find are the hardest to resist?



Seven Churches

Preparation Questions

Use these questions to help you work through the passage and discover what God is saying and how it applies to your life. Do this on your own so that you're ready to share your thoughts when you gather with others.



Read Revelation 1-3

BIG IDEA

1. How would you summarise the central message of this passage?



WINDOW

2. What did you discover (or recover) in this passage about what God is like and what he's done?



MIRROR

3. What did you discover (or recover) in this passage about yourself or your circumstances?



GOSPEL

4. How does this passage relate to or contribute to your understanding of the gospel and what it means to live according to the gospel?



5. What questions has this passage raised for you that remain unanswered?



6. How will you respond to this passage in your thoughts, attitudes & behavior?



7. Who could you share all this with beyond your DNA group?



In light of what you've discussed, pray together using the ACTS acronym:

A doration (praise)

C onfession

T hanksgiving

S upplication (asking)

PRAY | FOR | YOUR





The Throne & The Lamb

Kick-off: before jumping into God's WORD, it's worth taking a few minutes to reflect on your own thoughts and attitudes and on the thoughts and attitudes you encounter in the WORLD...

1. What are the things that have been consuming your mind in the last few days? What do they reveal about what you REALLY think life is all about?

2. When you grab a newspaper or magazine, turn on your television or go online, what do you see? What messages, priorities & values are being promoted? In what ways do these conflict with the gospel of Jesus Christ?

Discover: the "D" in DNA stands for DISCOVER. It's now time to read God's word and discover what God wants to teach us and why it matters...

READ Revelation 4-5

3. These chapters take us to the very heart of ultimate reality, what are we shown?

4. How does the dramatic imagery of John's vision put your preoccupations into perspective?

5. How would you describe the relationship between the one who sits on the throne and the lamb who was slain?

6. Two songs are sung in these chapters. What do they highlight about the two central characters (& moments) of history?

7. How does the rule of a sacrificed lamb mess with our world's ideas of power?

Nurture & Apply: the "NA" in DNA stands for Nurture & Apply. These questions are designed to help us care for each other and live out God's word...

8. How might you use this passage to help a Jehovah's Witness understand that Jesus really is fully God?

9. The meaning of the cross drives the mission to the nations. How have you taken this on board and put it into action?



The Throne & The Lamb

Preparation Questions

Use these questions to help you work through the passage and discover what God is saying and how it applies to your life. Do this on your own so that you're ready to share your thoughts when you gather with others.



Read Revelation 4-5

BIG IDEA

1. How would you summarise the central message of this passage?



WINDOW

2. What did you discover (or recover) in this passage about what God is like and what he's done?



MIRROR

3. What did you discover (or recover) in this passage about yourself or your circumstances?



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4. How does this passage relate to or contribute to your understanding of the gospel and what it means to live according to the gospel?



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History Repeats

Kick-off: before jumping into God's WORD, it's worth taking a few minutes to reflect on your own thoughts and attitudes and on the thoughts and attitudes you encounter in the WORLD...

1. When you see the apparent chaos of conflict & suffering around the world, how do you understand God's involvement in such events?
2. How do you think most people cope when confronted with the evil, suffering & apparent chaos of the world?

Discover: the "D" in DNA stands for DISCOVER. It's now time to read God's word and discover what God wants to teach us and why it matters...

READ Revelation 6-9

3. This passage introduces us to the first two cycles of seven describing human history. Can you identify the similar pattern that the two cycles follow? What does this tell you about how to interpret them?
4. The seals are opened by the Lamb and the trumpets are blown by angels. What does this tell you about the nature of the events being described?

5. According to this passage (and also the seven letters), what should Christians expect to experience as history unfolds and then reaches its final outcome ?

6. What would change for you if the “wartime mentality” of Revelation was more a feature in your life?

7. What consolation is there in these chapters when it feels like history is spinning out of control?

Nurture & Apply: the “NA” in DNA stands for Nurture & Apply. These questions are designed to help us care for each other and live out God’s word...

8. How might these chapters help us to avoid the twin errors of fear of the world and love of the world?

9. How might these chapters change the way we pray when we hear about the turmoil of our world?



History Repeats



Preparation Questions

Use these questions to help you work through the passage and discover what God is saying and how it applies to your life. Do this on your own so that you're ready to share your thoughts when you gather with others.



Read Revelation 6-9

BIG IDEA

1. How would you summarise the central message of this passage?



WINDOW

2. What did you discover (or recover) in this passage about what God is like and what he's done?



MIRROR

3. What did you discover (or recover) in this passage about yourself or your circumstances?



GOSPEL

4. How does this passage relate to or contribute to your understanding of the gospel and what it means to live according to the gospel?



5. What questions has this passage raised for you that remain unanswered?



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Victory Through Suffering

Kick-off: before jumping into God's WORD, it's worth taking a few minutes to reflect on your own thoughts and attitudes and on the thoughts and attitudes you encounter in the WORLD...

1. What would you expect a life of victorious Christian living to look like?

2. How would the world generally describe a successful life—who are the “winners”?

Discover: the “D” in DNA stands for DISCOVER. It's now time to read God's word and discover what God wants to teach us and why it matters...

READ Revelation 10-11

3. These chapters conclude the cycle of 7 trumpets. As with the cycle of 7 seals there is a pause before the final trumpet is blown. What happens in this pause?

4. In 10:7 the angel says that in the lead-up to the 7th trumpet the mystery of God will be accomplished. Based on 10:8-11:14 then, what is this mystery?

5. What do you think is written on the little scroll that John must then prophesy?

6. What does it take to be a faithful (i.e. victorious) follower of Jesus?

7. What does this passage have to teach us about why the victory of Christ doesn't always seem evident in the life of the church?

Nurture & Apply: the "NA" in DNA stands for Nurture & Apply. These questions are designed to help us care for each other and live out God's word...

8. Where in the world do we see the church today being BOTH persecuted and victorious? Do you see this feature in our church in any way, no matter how small?

9. Have you ever experienced the phenomenon of the victory of Christ through suffering for Christ in your own life?



Victory Through Suffering

Preparation Questions

Use these questions to help you work through the passage and discover what God is saying and how it applies to your life. Do this on your own so that you're ready to share your thoughts when you gather with others.



Read Revelation 10-11

BIG IDEA

1. How would you summarise the central message of this passage?



WINDOW

2. What did you discover (or recover) in this passage about what God is like and what he's done?



MIRROR

3. What did you discover (or recover) in this passage about yourself or your circumstances?



GOSPEL

4. How does this passage relate to or contribute to your understanding of the gospel and what it means to live according to the gospel?



5. What questions has this passage raised for you that remain unanswered?



6. How will you respond to this passage in your thoughts, attitudes & behavior?



7. Who could you share all this with beyond your DNA group?



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Seven Signs (the view from earth)

Kick-off: before jumping into God's WORD, it's worth taking a few minutes to reflect on your own thoughts and attitudes and on the thoughts and attitudes you encounter in the WORLD...

1. What are your views on "spiritual warfare"?

2. Why do you think its so hard for most Aussies to care about the spiritual nature of life?

Discover: the "D" in DNA stands for DISCOVER. It's now time to read God's word and discover what God wants to teach us and why it matters...

READ Revelation 12-14

3. A crucial part of understanding Revelation is correctly identifying what or who various characters & images represent. Complete the table below to help you make sense of these chapters.

A woman	A dragon	A son	Other offspring	2 beast s	3 angels	2 harvests

4. Revelation 12 depicts the age of the church as a great 3-part battle involving a woman, a child & a dragon. What are the key events in this battle?

5. Revelation 12:11 is perhaps the key verse in the whole book. By what means does the church of Christ achieve its victory?

6. The two beasts of Revelation 13 pose two equal but opposite threats for the church of Jesus. What are these threats and which is a more real threat for you? What do you need to fight effectively against them?

7. These chapters end with two harvests—one of grain & one of grapes. What do these two harvests represent?

Nurture & Apply: the “NA” in DNA stands for Nurture & Apply. These questions are designed to help us care for each other and live out God’s word...

8. How do these chapters effect your view of suffering as a witness of Jesus?

9. How can we ensure our worship is a true act of defiance against the idolatrous claims of the world?



Seven Signs (the view from earth)

Preparation Questions

Use these questions to help you work through the passage and discover what God is saying and how it applies to your life. Do this on your own so that you're ready to share your thoughts when you gather with others.



Read Revelation 12-14

BIG IDEA

1. How would you summarise the central message of this passage?



WINDOW

2. What did you discover (or recover) in this passage about what God is like and what he's done?



MIRROR

3. What did you discover (or recover) in this passage about yourself or your circumstances?



GOSPEL

4. How does this passage relate to or contribute to your understanding of the gospel and what it means to live according to the gospel?



QUESTIONS

5. What questions has this passage raised for you that remain unanswered?



RESPONSE

6. How will you respond to this passage in your thoughts, attitudes & behavior?



SHARE

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PRAY | FOR | YOUR





Seven Bowls

Kick-off: before jumping into God's WORD, it's worth taking a few minutes to reflect on your own thoughts and attitudes and on the thoughts and attitudes you encounter in the WORLD...

1. What kind of experiences give you a real hunger to see justice done?

2. What factors limit human/earthly justice?

Discover: the "D" in DNA stands for DISCOVER. It's now time to read God's word and discover what God wants to teach us and why it matters...

READ Revelation 15-16

3. These chapters introduce yet another cycle of seven. How is this cycle similar and yet different to those we've already seen?

4. As we've seen previously, the first five parts of the cycle represent God's judgments within history. Can you remember how the 6th & 7th parts of each cycle draw it to a conclusion? Does this cycle follow the same pattern?

5. What do the plagues that come from the bowls remind you of? What do you think is the significance of this connection?

6. The two songs in these chapters both declare the truth & justice of God's judgments. In what ways are the plagues just punishments for the sins that have been committed?

7. Revelation seems to promote both human non-violence and divine violence. How is it possible for these two themes to not contradict each other?

Nurture & Apply: the "NA" in DNA stands for Nurture & Apply. These questions are designed to help us care for each other and live out God's word...

8. Do you think of divine judgment as good news? Why/why not?

9. When are you tempted to seek revenge? How do these chapters enable you to respond differently?



Seven Bowls

Preparation Questions

Use these questions to help you work through the passage and discover what God is saying and how it applies to your life. Do this on your own so that you're ready to share your thoughts when you gather with others.

Read Revelation 15-16



BIG IDEA

1. How would you summarise the central message of this passage?



WINDOW

2. What did you discover (or recover) in this passage about what God is like and what he's done?



MIRROR

3. What did you discover (or recover) in this passage about yourself or your circumstances?



GOSPEL

4. How does this passage relate to or contribute to your understanding of the gospel and what it means to live according to the gospel?



5. What questions has this passage raised for you that remain unanswered?



6. How will you respond to this passage in your thoughts, attitudes & behavior?



7. Who could you share all this with beyond your DNA group?



In light of what you've discussed, pray together using the ACTS acronym:

A doration (praise)

C onfession

T hanksgiving

S upplication (asking)

PRAY | FOR | YOUR





Babylon the Prostitute

Kick-off: before jumping into God's WORD, it's worth taking a few minutes to reflect on your own thoughts and attitudes and on the thoughts and attitudes you encounter in the WORLD...

1. Do you feel at home in our consumer society?

2. In what ways can modern trade be both a blessing and a curse? Who benefits and who suffers?

Discover: the "D" in DNA stands for DISCOVER. It's now time to read God's word and discover what God wants to teach us and why it matters...

READ Revelation 17:1-19:10

3. Why do you think Babylon (i.e. the world's kingdoms & empires—Rome & all that have followed) is portrayed as a prostitute?

4. What is the cause of the prostitute's downfall? How should this prophecy strengthen the churches John is writing to?

5. What does chapter 18 reveal about the behaviour involved in “Babylon’s” prostitution or adultery (recall also the second beast of chapter 13)?

6. While those who were in league with Babylon cry “Woe!” at her fall, heaven cries “Hallelujah!”. What has the removal of the prostitute prepared the way for?

7. What role will the followers of Jesus have at the wedding feast of the Lamb?

Nurture & Apply: the “NA” in DNA stands for Nurture & Apply. These questions are designed to help us care for each other and live out God’s word...

8. In what ways are your aspirations & dreams shaped by Babylon’s vision of the good life?

9. What might it mean for you to “come out of her”? Think of three practical things you can do towards this goal

1.

2.

3.



Babylon the Prostitute

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QUESTIONS

5. What questions has this passage raised for you that remain unanswered?



RESPONSE

6. How will you respond to this passage in your thoughts, attitudes & behavior?



SHARE

7. Who could you share all this with beyond your DNA group?



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Seven Signs (the view from heaven)

Kick-off: before jumping into God's WORD, it's worth taking a few minutes to reflect on your own thoughts and attitudes and on the thoughts and attitudes you encounter in the WORLD...

1. Think of a time when you've held a particular view of an event and then discovered new information that has given you a broader perspective.

2. How do your unbelieving friends expect history to pan out?

Discover: the "D" in DNA stands for DISCOVER. It's now time to read God's word and discover what God wants to teach us and why it matters...

READ Revelation 19:11-21:8

3. While some people think this passage describes events that are solely in the future, it is much more likely that it is the final depiction of the same cosmic struggle we've already seen from several different angles. What earlier themes are repeated and what new insights are added?

4. What is surprising about the final battle and judgment of Satan?

5. After the judgment of Satan will come the judgment of all people based on what is written in TWO books. What do these two books represent and which one do you feel has more power to influence your behaviour?

6. In what ways do you think John expected this passage to effect his first readers? What response is appropriate for us as we read this passage today?

7. Chapter 21 picks up where 19:9 left off. What do you find most appealing about this depiction of the new (or renewed) heavens & earth?

Nurture & Apply: the “NA” in DNA stands for Nurture & Apply. These questions are designed to help us care for each other and live out God’s word...

8. This passage encourages the faithful testimony to Jesus of his missionary church rather than the twin errors of defeatism or triumphalism. Are you making the most of our 1000-year reign with Jesus?

9. What could you do to ensure that your day-to-day life is being appropriately shaped by the day when Jesus returns and “books are opened”?



Seven Signs (the view from heaven)

Preparation Questions

Use these questions to help you work through the passage and discover what God is saying and how it applies to your life. Do this on your own so that you're ready to share your thoughts when you gather with others.



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Jerusalem the Bride

Kick-off: before jumping into God's WORD, it's worth taking a few minutes to reflect on your own thoughts and attitudes and on the thoughts and attitudes you encounter in the WORLD...

1. When do you feel like giving up on following Christ or compromising your allegiance to him?

2. What have you heard unbelievers say they hope heaven will be like?

Discover: the "D" in DNA stands for DISCOVER. It's now time to read God's word and discover what God wants to teach us and why it matters...

READ Revelation 21:9-22:21

3. Does the depiction of the new Jerusalem remind you of any other part/s of the Bible? What similarities and differences can you see with those passages?

4. This passage depicts the culmination of history and the reality of eternity. What are the key features of this new eternal reality?

5. It's worth remembering that the New Creation is the final outcome of the combined ministry of Jesus AND his faithful people. How does that thought effect how you think about your life's purpose?

6. How does the glorious depiction of the New Creation in this passage help you to live faithfully for Jesus in the face of this world's power & glory?

7. Do you want Christ to "come soon" as he promises to do in 22:20 and do you pray for him to keep this promise as John does? What factors shape your answer?

Nurture & Apply: the "NA" in DNA stands for Nurture & Apply. These questions are designed to help us care for each other and live out God's word...

8. Are you more at home in Babylon the prostitute or Jerusalem the bride? What are the signs either way?

9. How has God spoken to you most clearly through your study of Revelation and what have you done in response?



Jerusalem the Bride

Preparation Questions

Use these questions to help you work through the passage and discover what God is saying and how it applies to your life. Do this on your own so that you're ready to share your thoughts when you gather with others.



Read Revelation 21:9-22:21

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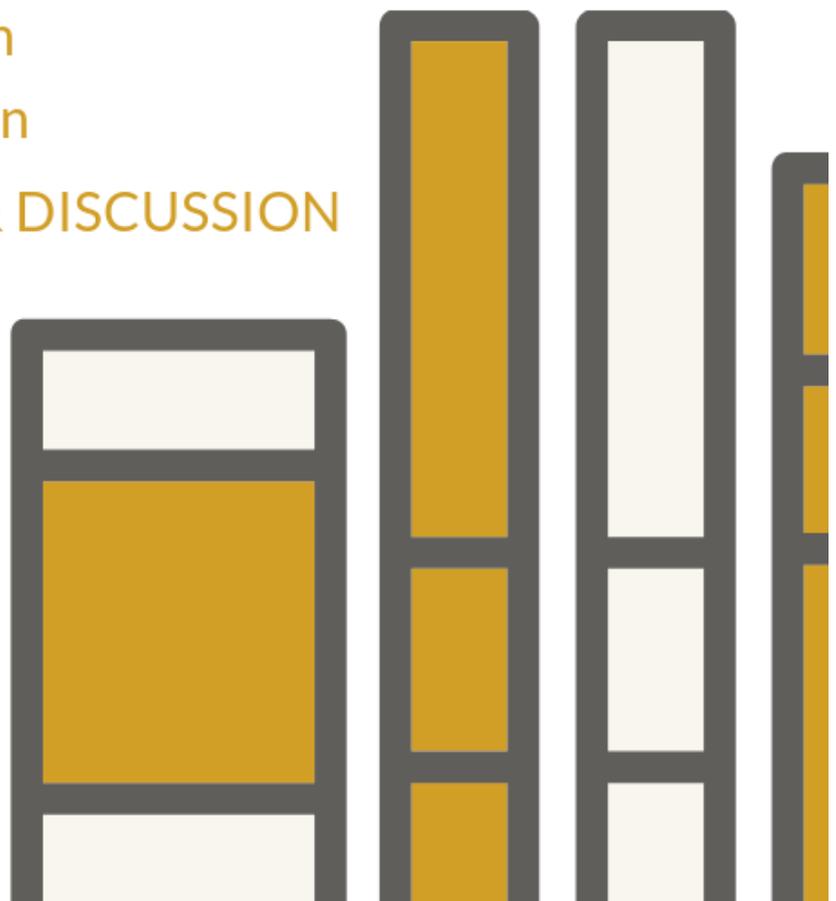


SCPC BOOK CLUB 2019

ESCAPING ESCAPISM

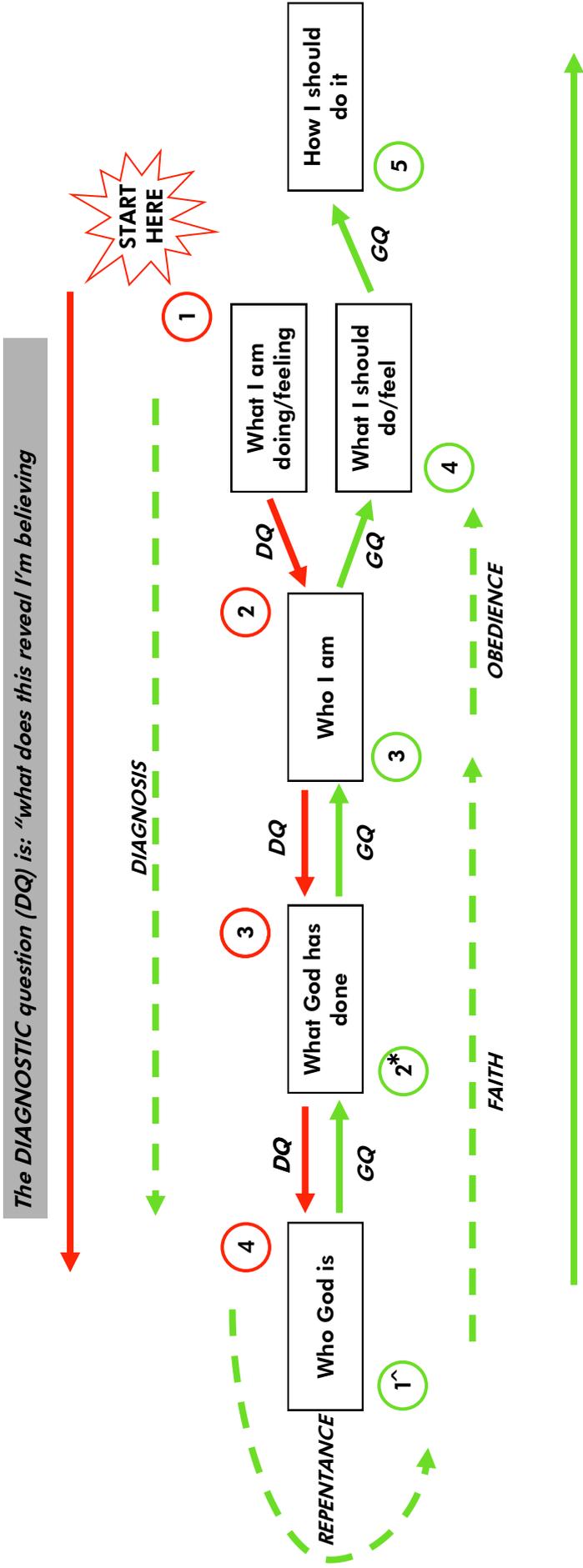
READING SCHEDULE

DATE	CHAPTER
20th Oct	Chapters 1-3
27th Oct	Refuge
3rd Nov	Shepherd
10th Nov	Light
17th Nov	Portion
24th Nov	Rock
1st Dec	Strength
8th Dec	Salvation
12th Dec	Ch 11 & DISCUSSION



5 questions for gospel growth

(gospel-centred diagnosis, repentance, faith & obedience)



^ NOTE: to help at this point you may want to consider "the 4Gs" which are a helpful summary of God's character: God is...
 GREAT: so we don't have to be in control
 GLORIOUS: so we don't have to fear others
 GOOD: so we don't have to look elsewhere
 GRACIOUS: so we don't have to prove ourselves

* NOTE: the focus here should be on Jesus and making him the hero of your story. Consider the 5 elements of the gospel: Jesus' incarnation, his life, his death, his resurrection & his return as one or more of these elements may be most relevant to your circumstances at a particular time.



**SOUTHERN CROSS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

growing followers of Jesus