



to the church

September – October Teaching Series



Group Guide

A Study on the Word of Jesus to the
7 Churches of Revelation

Dear Church

Week 1

Reflect

Take some time to process together as a group:

- How is your soul doing?
- Where did you feel God most present and distant this week?
- What is one spiritual practice that has been lifegiving for you this week?

Overview

We begin our journey through Revelation by discovering that this book is ultimately the revealing of Jesus to His church.

Through John's experience on Patmos, we explore the reality of **living in the "in-between"**— those seasons of suffering, waiting, uncertainty, and silence when God's promises seem distant. Revelation pulls back the curtain to remind us that there is always a greater reality beyond what we can see, and that Jesus is still sovereign, present, and active among His people.

Rather than focusing on escaping hardship and suffering, we are invited to develop a renewed vision of Jesus that gives us courage to endure, surrender our waiting, and remain faithful. The question for us is not simply, "What is happening?" but **"What—and who—are we looking at?"**



Reading

Go around the group reading out loud: **Revelation 1:1–20**

As you read, pay attention to:

Where John is

What John is experiencing

What Jesus looks like

What Jesus says

What Jesus is doing among the churches

Discussion

What stands out to you most from this chapter?

What do we learn about John's circumstances in verses 9–10?

Which description of Jesus in Revelation 1:12–16 speaks most strongly to you right now? Why?

Have you ever experienced a season where God seemed silent, but looking back, you realized He was still present?

Why can God's silence sometimes feel like God's absence?

What tends to capture your attention when life becomes difficult?

What voices are loudest in you during stressful seasons?

What situation are you currently waiting on God for?

What is one practical way you can redirect your attention toward Jesus this week?



Practice

Beholding Jesus (5-10mins)

This week find a quiet time

Relax your body into God's presence

Take deep, slow breaths to quiet your heart and focus your mind.

The first goal is to come to stillness; to let all the distractions fall away and to open yourself to the voice of God.

Bring the scene from Revelation 1 with John and Jesus to mind

Now imagine yourself meeting him

Hold up your anxieties and cares, all your burdens before Jesus

Look at Jesus' face, and listen for his voice.

**If you have time, journal what you heard from him

Closing Prayer

"Father in heaven, we name before you the places in our life where we are enduring the experience of your silence, absence or both — all the good desire we are waiting on. We are not asking for you to fulfill every desire according to our timetable but that you would keep your promise not to leave us or forsake us, assure us that even though all is still and quiet today, resurrection is coming,

Amen."

Further Resources

Watch: To the Church Teaching Series – Abbalove Church

Watch: Revelation Teaching Series (2026) – Abbalove Church

Read: Revelation for the rest of us – Scot McKnight

Read / Listen: 5 Strategies for reading revelation – Bible Project





Dear Church



**"Write on the scroll what you
see and send it to the church"**

- Jesus

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