

Book of the Week: Small Group Guide

Week 9: Hebrews

August 2, 2026

- **Icebreaker Question:** When you think about the book of Revelation, what is the first word or feeling that comes to mind? Has that ever kept you from reading it?
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Key Takeaways

1. The central theme of Revelation is this: Christ has won the ultimate victory over the forces of evil, and the church of every generation is comforted and called to stand fast through judgment and suffering until he returns to bring us into the new heaven and the new earth.
 2. Revelation is not primarily a mystical or frightening book. It is a deeply practical book written to real churches facing real persecution, with a message that applies to every generation including our own.
 3. The book draws heavily from the Old Testament and uses symbolic language not as a secret code, but as a way of revealing the spiritual realities behind historical events.
 4. Jesus warns against lukewarm, mediocre Christian living. The intensity of the spiritual battle around us demands wholehearted devotion.
 5. Revelation ends not with fear but with extraordinary hope — a new heaven, a new earth, and the presence of God dwelling fully with his people.
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Discussion Questions

On the Theme and Purpose of Revelation

1. The sermon described the main theme of Revelation as: Christ has won the ultimate victory over the forces of evil, the church is comforted and called to stand fast, through judgment and suffering, until he returns to bring us to the new heaven and new earth. Which part of that theme is most meaningful to you personally right now, and why?
2. The sermon suggested that Revelation is less of a mystical book and more of a practical one. How does knowing that it was written to real churches facing real persecution change how you think about reading it?
3. Revelation draws on 27 of the 39 Old Testament books. What does that level of connection tell us about how the Bible fits together as one unified story?

On Spiritual Battle

4. The sermon said: "If you are a believer in Christ, you are up against it." How aware are you in your daily life of the spiritual battle going on around you? What helps you stay alert to it without becoming overwhelmed by it?
5. Revelation 12:12 describes the devil as filled with fury because he knows his time is short (see Revelation 12:12 for the full text). How does knowing that Satan's time is limited — and that his defeat is already secured — change how you face temptation or hardship?

On the Letters to the Seven Churches

6. The letter to the church in Laodicea warns against being neither hot nor cold (see Revelation 3:15-17 for the full text). Where in your own life do you sense the danger of spiritual lukewarmness? What conditions tend to produce that in you?
7. The seven churches each received both affirmation and challenge from Jesus. If Jesus were writing a letter to your small group or your church today, what do you think he might commend? What might he challenge?

On Judgment and Suffering

8. The sermon described judgment as something that is ongoing throughout history, not only a future event. How does that perspective affect the way you make sense of suffering, tragedy, and injustice in the world today?
9. The sermon acknowledged that the church is not exempt from suffering and that intensity may increase before Christ returns. How do you hold together honest realism about suffering with genuine hope in Christ's victory?

On the New Heaven and New Earth

10. Revelation 21 and 22 describe a restored creation — no more death, mourning, crying, or pain, and God dwelling fully with his people (see Revelation 21:3-4 and 22:1-5 for the full text). What aspect of that picture is most meaningful or comforting to you? Why?
11. The sermon connected the ending of Revelation back to the beginning of Genesis — God made it, we broke it, God fixes it. How does seeing the Bible as one complete story from creation to new creation change the way you read individual passages or books?

Closing Prayer

Pray together, thanking God for the confidence and hope that Revelation offers. Ask for courage to live wholeheartedly for Christ in the middle of real spiritual battle, and for eyes to see the story of Scripture as one unified, trustworthy, and glorious whole.