

Small Group Leader's Guide

Revelation 12 | When Darkness Is Unleashed

Main Idea: God remains in control when darkness is unleashed. His judgment reveals the seriousness of sin and the urgency of turning to Him.

Begin with prayer, asking God to help your group understand His Word and respond with humble, willing hearts.



Know It

1. God Allows Tribulation - *Revelation 9:1–12*

1. The destructive forces in this passage receive limited authority: they are told whom they may harm, what they may do, and how long they may act. What does this reveal about God's control over evil?
2. How does knowing that evil has limits affect the way we respond to frightening circumstances or uncertainty?
3. When suffering comes, what helps you turn toward God? What can tempt you to pull away from Him?

Leader Tips

1. **Help the group notice the limits God establishes.** Point to verses 4–5: the locusts have restrictions concerning their targets, their actions, and their duration. Ask participants to identify those limits before discussing their meaning. Emphasize that these destructive forces cannot act independently of God's authority.
2. **Keep the discussion centered on the passage's clear message.** Questions about the star, the abyss, and the locusts may arise. Briefly acknowledge differing interpretations, then return to the central truth: evil is destructive, but God remains in control. Avoid allowing speculation to consume the discussion.
3. **Make room for honest responses to suffering.** Give participants time to answer question three without feeling pressured to share painful details. Affirm that trusting God does not mean we never experience fear or grief. Avoid suggesting that every personal hardship is a direct judgment for a particular sin.

2. God Allows Judgment - *Revelation 9:13–19*

1. Verse 15 describes the angels being released at a specific hour, day, month, and year. What does this tell us about the timing and certainty of God's judgment?
2. How does this passage challenge the tendency to treat sin casually or assume that God will never judge it?

Leader Tips

1. **Highlight the deliberate timing of judgment.** Have someone reread verse 15. Help the group see that this event occurs at an appointed time. Keep the focus on God's authority and the certainty of His judgment rather than attempts to calculate dates.

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2. **Encourage personal reflection before discussing society's sins.** If the conversation focuses entirely on what other people are doing wrong, gently redirect: "Where might we be taking sin too lightly in our own lives?" Model humility without requiring anyone to disclose private struggles.
3. **Connect the warning of judgment with the hope of the gospel.** Have someone read Acts 17:30–31 aloud. Explain that Paul calls people to repentance and points to Jesus' resurrection. Encourage the group to speak about judgment with compassion and urgency, explaining the forgiveness and life available through Jesus.

3. People Refuse to Turn from Their Sin - *Revelation 9:20–21*

1. **They refuse to surrender their worship.** Even after these judgments, people continue worshipping demons and idols. What things can compete with God for our trust, devotion, and obedience today? How can we recognize when something has become an idol?
2. **They refuse to surrender their behavior.** These people hold on to sinful practices despite their consequences. What is the difference between regretting the consequences of sin and truly repenting of sin?
3. **They reveal the danger of a hardened heart.** Read Jeremiah 18:11–12. How does repeatedly refusing God's correction harden a person's heart? What is one specific way you need to respond to God's correction this week?
4. Read Acts 17:30–31. How should God's command to repent and the certainty of coming judgment shape our conversations with people who do not know Jesus?

Leader Tips

1. **Help participants examine what receives their devotion.** Explain that even good things—family, work, financial security, or approval—can become idols when they take God's rightful place. Invite reflection with this prompt: "What do I depend on so deeply that I resist obeying God when it feels threatened?"
2. **Clarify repentance through a practical example.** Someone may regret damaging a relationship yet continue the same hurtful behavior. Repentance involves acknowledging the sin, turning toward God, and taking steps consistent with that change. Emphasize dependence on God's grace rather than treating repentance as earning His forgiveness.
3. **Lead toward a specific, willing response.** In Jeremiah 18, God calls people to turn, but they insist on following their own plans. Help the group recognize the danger of repeatedly saying no to Him. Allow a short silence after the final question, and invite each person to identify one step of obedience. Sharing aloud should remain voluntary.



Prayer

Closing Prayer

Allow a brief moment of silence for personal reflection. Then pray:

"Lord, reveal anything competing for our worship. Help us turn from sin, receive Your correction, and respond to You with tender hearts. Give us courage and compassion to share Jesus with others. Amen."