

Small Group Leader's Guide

Revelation 6 | The Beginning of the End

Main idea: Jesus, the Lamb who opens the seals, is sovereign over judgment, remembers those who remain faithful to Him, and calls everyone to be ready for His return.



Know It

Opening

Read Revelation 6 together. As you listen, notice who opens each seal and how people respond.

1. Jesus releases the first four seals (judgment) — Revelation 6:1–8

1. What happens when each of the first four seals is opened? What do the horses and riders show us about the suffering and judgment described here?
2. The riders are repeatedly *given* power or authority. How does that detail shape your understanding of Jesus' authority over these events?
3. When the world feels unstable, where are you tempted to look for security? How does this passage call you to trust Christ?

Leadership tips

- **Clarify the four horses:** The white horse depicts conquest (peace); the red horse brings warfare and bloodshed; the black horse points to famine and costly food; the pale green horse represents death.
- **Keep the Lamb in view:** Jesus opens every seal. The riders' authority is *given*, and the fourth rider's reach is limited. Help the group see that these events do not escape Christ's authority.
- **Move from fear to trust:** Give people room to name real concerns about conflict, scarcity, or death. Then ask how following the Lamb changes where they seek security.

2. Jesus remembers His faithful people — Revelation 6:9–11

1. Why were the people under the altar killed? What does their testimony tell us about faithfulness to Jesus?
2. What do their cry, the white robes, and the command to rest reveal about God's response to His suffering people?
3. Where do you need courage to remain faithful to Jesus, even if obedience brings a cost?

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Leadership tips

- **Explain why they were killed:** Verse 9 says they were slaughtered “because of the word of God and the testimony they had given.” These are believers who held to God’s Word and testified to Jesus despite deadly opposition.
- **Handle their cry carefully:** They ask God to judge and avenge; they do not take revenge themselves. Their prayer expresses confidence that the holy and true Lord will bring justice in His time.
- **Point to God’s care:** The white robes and the instruction to rest show that these believers have not been forgotten. Encourage the group to pray for persecuted Christians and for courage in their own witness.

3. Jesus reveals the coming day of wrath — Revelation 6:12–17

1. What changes in creation when the sixth seal is opened? How do people from every position in society respond?
2. Verse 17 asks, “**Who is able to stand?**” Why can status, wealth, or power offer no refuge on that day? Where can a person find refuge?
3. How should the reality of coming judgment shape the way we pray for, speak to, and share the gospel with people who do not know Christ?

Leadership tips

- **Let the question land:** Kings, generals, the rich, and everyone else face the same reality. Ask the group to sit with “Who is able to stand?” before moving to the hope of the gospel.
- **Explain how to be ready:** Readiness is not guessing when these events will happen. It means repenting of sin and trusting in Jesus Christ—the Lamb who was slain—for salvation, then living faithfully as His disciple.
- **End with gospel urgency and compassion:** Invite group members to name someone they can pray for and speak with about Jesus. Encourage a loving conversation this week, rather than speculation or fear.



Prayer

Invite the group to pray for steady faith in Christ, comfort for believers who suffer, and opportunities to share the gospel with someone this week.