

Session 1: You Were Made for This Day

Note: These questions were pulled from the *The Overcomers Bible Study Guide* curriculum, which you can purchase at the link on the series home page. For the best group experience, order books for everyone in your group.

CONNECT

If any of your group members don't know each other, take a few minutes to introduce yourselves. Then discuss one or both of the following questions:

- Why did you decide to join this study? What do you hope to learn?

OR

- What is your general view on the world you live in today? What words best describe your sense of the time and place in which you are living?

WATCH

Watch Session 1: *You Were Made for This Day* (20 minutes).

Discuss what you just watched by answering the following questions.

1. What three kinds of literary genres does the book of Revelation reflect? Why is it important to understand each type in order to grasp the meaning of Revelation?
2. John categorized the seven churches into three types: (1) biblically knowledgeable but cold, (2) spiritually aware but indifferent, and (3) spiritually weary and falling away. How do you think the cultural and political persecutions of the day tilted each of the churches toward one or more of these categories that John describes?
3. Which of the three kinds of churches that you read about in Revelation 2–3 seems worse than the others? Why?
4. Revelation is a biblical prophecy. How would you define and describe the prophetic books or prophetic parts of the Bible? In terms of purpose and impact, what is the difference between “thus says the Lord” and “this is what is coming”?
5. How does understanding the characteristics of apocalyptic literature change your overall impression of the book of Revelation? Why does it change your perception of the book in that way?

[illegible]

As you consider how Revelation applies to you, it will help to keep the big picture in mind. John begins with this foundational perspective by immediately identifying who he is, what he is writing, why he is writing, and how he received this message: “The revelation from Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants what must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John, who testifies to everything he saw—that is, the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ” (Revelation 1:1–2). He then states the desired impact of his message: “Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near” (verse 3).

How does John's opening help you understand the overall purpose of Revelation?

Why do you think John chose to state the impact that he hoped his message would have? How does this impact go beyond the seven churches to include you?

What does it mean for you to “take to heart” the “words of this prophecy” right now?

[illegible]

PRAY

Praying for another is one of the most important things you can do as a community. So use this prayer time as a way to support, encourage, and uplift one another rather than just as a “closing prayer” to end your group experience. Be intentional about sharing your prayer requests, reviewing how God is answering your prayers and praying for each other as a group. As you pray, ask God to use the message of Revelation to reassure you and to strengthen your faith. Before you close your session, write down any requests so that you and your fellow group members can continue to pray about them in the week ahead.

The Overcomers Bible Study Guide

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