

Praise: Start your time in worship together as a family by following the order of service posted by Westview.

Pray: Ask the Lord for Wisdom and Insight as you learn about this often challenging book.

Review: How is the summer devo going for you? Did you find a way to love someone so they see Jesus.

Watch: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5nvVVcYD-0w>

Read: Revelation 1:9-20

Questions/Discussion:

NEXT, have a student read Revelation 1:12-20. Explain that here we see Jesus as the Messenger who is giving this vision to John. Say:

- **This is a vision that we feel like we have to read several times to get our minds around. Simply put, this is a vision of Jesus (“one like the son of man”) standing as a Savior who protects and provides for the church in persecution (see verse 11 and “seven golden lampstands”), to which this letter is written.**

Explain that in this vision of Jesus they just read, we see three truths that we have seen of Jesus throughout our study of God’s Word in our *Threads* study. Work through the three truths with your group.

Truth 1: Jesus stands ready to forgive.

Explain to your students that it is likely that the robe and sash that Jesus is wearing in this vision is the clothing that an Old Testament priest would wear. Explain that the priest would represent the people before God and offer sacrifices to God on their behalf. Remind them that Jesus stands as the ultimate example of forgiveness in that He offered Himself on our behalf at the cross.

Truth 2: Jesus, the light of the world, calls the Church to be His light.

Explain that in verse 20 the seven lampstands are the seven churches to which John is writing. The single purpose of a lampstand is to be a light in the midst of darkness. Say something like:

- **In our study of the New Testament, we’ve seen that Jesus was the light of the world. At the end of this section, we see Jesus’ face like the sun giving off light. If you have ever been in complete darkness, you know that light shines the brightest in the darkness. This was what the churches were doing as they faced persecution, and this is the same thing we are called to do as the church.**

Truth 3: The Word of God cannot be silenced.

Explain that in verse 16, Jesus has a sword coming from His mouth. This sword represents the Word of God. In verse 15, we see that Jesus cannot be silenced. The Word of God cannot be silenced. Say something like:

- **Throughout history, people have tried to diminish, challenge, disprove, and destroy God’s Word, yet God’s Word has remained. It is our ultimate source of truth and hope, and it contains the words of life on which the churches would stand in the midst of persecution.**

Remind students that the Gospel message you’ve seen throughout this *Threads* study is the same Gospel message that Jesus shows John of in Revelation.

FIRST, instruct students to turn to Isaiah 44:6. Explain to students that Jesus is the same God in this vision in Revelation that we have seen throughout the Bible. Have a student read Isaiah 44:6 to see what God’s message was for His people thousands of years before.

THEN, explain to students that the idea that Jesus is Lord and Savior is the same in Revelation and Isaiah. The picture of Jesus being “the first and the last” is seen in both books. Remind them that the thread of the Gospel throughout Scripture is not something that we have simply been making up this year. It is clearly the theme of the Bible. Jesus is the Hero and everything points to Him. Ask your students the following questions:

- **How does the thread of the Gospel throughout the Bible change your view of God’s Word?**
 - Answers will vary.
- **How does Jesus as the “first and the last” strengthen your faith in Him?**
 - Answers will vary.

Next Week we conclude this years curriculum and finish in Revelation!