SMITH FOR CHRIST

TEACHING THE WORD · WATCHING THE TIMES

REFLECTION JOURNAL · FIVE DAYS

Revelation

Chapter 1

The Risen Christ: Do Not Be Afraid

MEMORY VERSE · REVELATION 1:17–18

"Do not be afraid; I am the first and the last, and the living One; and I was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of death and of Hades."

THIS JOURNAL BELONGS TO _____

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

This week in Revelation 1

Before Revelation shows us one seal or trumpet, it shows us Jesus — and it shows Him to a prisoner. This week, let the risen Christ be bigger than the Jesus you usually carry around, and let Him lay His right hand on you where you have fallen.

How to use this journal

1. Each day, read the passage slowly — out loud if you can.
2. Answer the **Observe** question from the text before you write what it means.
3. Write honestly on the **Reflect** questions. No one grades this.
4. Do the **Respond** step today, not someday. Say the memory verse.
5. Bring this journal to the group. The last page is for the table.

The O·I·A study, the slides and the film for this chapter are on the Revelation study page.

WHERE I AM AS I START THIS CHAPTER

What is going on in my life right now that I want to bring to God this week?

DAY 1 OF 5

Whose Book Is This?

READ · REVELATION 1:1–3

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

Who gives this revelation, who receives it, and who is it about (1:1–2)? List every person in the chain.

REFLECT

Verse 3 blesses the man who reads, hears and heeds — not the man who figures it all out (1:3). Where do you tend to collect Bible knowledge without doing what it says?

REFLECT

If this whole book is "The Revelation of Jesus Christ" (1:1), what would change in how you read it if your first question were 'What does this show me about Jesus?'

RESPOND — TODAY

Read Revelation 1 out loud today, then write down one thing Jesus wants you to keep, and do it before bed.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (REVELATION 1:17–18)

DAY 2 OF 5

Loved, Released, Coming

READ · REVELATION 1:4–8

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

Write out the three titles of Jesus in verse 5 and the three things He has done for us in verses 5–6.

REFLECT

Jesus is the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth (1:5). Which of those three speaks most to a fear you are carrying right now, and why?

REFLECT

The word "released" (1:5) means to untie what was bound. What has Jesus already released you from — and what are you still acting as if you are tied to?

RESPOND — TODAY

Thank Jesus out loud, by name, for one specific thing His blood has released you from.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (REVELATION 1:17–18)

DAY 3 OF 5

A Brother on Patmos

READ · REVELATION 1:9–11

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

How does John describe himself in verse 9, and why was he on Patmos?

REFLECT

John was a prisoner on a rock, and that is where he saw Jesus most clearly (1:9–10). What is your "Patmos" — the place you feel stuck or cut off — and how might Jesus meet you there?

REFLECT

John calls himself "your brother and fellow partaker in the tribulation" (1:9), not a big-shot apostle. Which man in your life needs you beside him rather than above him?

RESPOND — TODAY

Reach out today to one man who is going through a hard season — a call, a note, or sitting with him — as a brother.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (REVELATION 1:17–18)

DAY 4 OF 5

The Son of Man Among the Lampstands

READ · REVELATION 1:12–16

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

Make a list of everything John sees about Jesus in verses 13–16, from His robe to His face.

REFLECT

Which detail of Jesus in these verses is hardest for you to picture, and what does it tell you about the Jesus you usually imagine (1:14–16)?

REFLECT

His word is a sharp two-edged sword (1:16). Where has God's word cut into your life lately — and did you let it, or did you try to handle it instead?

RESPOND — TODAY

Ask Jesus to forgive you for any way you have made Him small and safe, and spend five quiet minutes simply worshiping Him as He is.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (REVELATION 1:17–18)

DAY 5 OF 5

Do Not Be Afraid

READ · REVELATION 1:17–20

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What does Jesus do before He speaks to John in verse 17, and what does He say He holds in verse 18?

REFLECT

John fell like a dead man, and Jesus laid His right hand on him before giving him any work to do (1:17). Where do you need His "Do not be afraid" before you can move forward?

REFLECT

Jesus says He has "the keys of death and of Hades" (1:18). What has seemed to hold the keys in your life — an addiction, a record, a fear — and what does it mean that Jesus holds the keys instead?

RESPOND — TODAY

Write the memory verse on a card and read it out loud every time fear shows up today.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (REVELATION 1:17–18)

WHEN THE GROUP MEETS

Questions for the table

FOR THE GROUP · 1

John saw Jesus most clearly on a prison island. How have hard places in your life become places where you saw Jesus more clearly (1:9)?

FOR THE GROUP · 2

Jesus is "coming with the clouds, and every eye will see Him" (1:7). How does knowing He is coming shape the way you live this week, not just what you believe about the future?

FOR THE GROUP · 3

John was told to write what he saw and send it to the churches (1:11, 19). What has Jesus shown you this week that you need to pass on to another man?

MY PRAYER

Lord Jesus, First and Last and Living One, lay Your right hand on me today, because…

CUT OUT · CARRY IT · REVELATION 1:17–18

"Do not be afraid; I am the first and the last, and the living One; and I was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of death and of Hades."