SMITH FOR CHRIST

TEACHING THE WORD · WATCHING THE TIMES

REFLECTION JOURNAL · FIVE DAYS

Revelation

Chapter 9

The Abyss Opened: Hearts That Will Not Repent

MEMORY VERSE · REVELATION 9:4

"They were told not to hurt the grass of the earth, nor any green thing, nor any tree, but only the men who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads."

THIS JOURNAL BELONGS TO _____

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

This week in Revelation 9

Revelation 9 is one of the darkest chapters in the Bible, but God never lets go of the key. This week, let it show you how real the enemy is, how safe God's sealed ones are, and how dangerous it is to sit through His warnings unchanged.

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

The Key Is Given

READ · REVELATION 9:1–6

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

Who receives the key of the bottomless pit, and who are the locusts allowed to hurt (9:1, 4)?

REFLECT

The key “was given” and the locusts were “told” what they could touch (9:1, 4). Where have you been living as if the enemy is in charge, and how does God's leash on him change that?

REFLECT

Men “will long to die, and death flees from them” (9:6). When have you believed the lie that escape would end your pain, and what did Jesus offer you instead?

RESPOND — TODAY

If you or a man you know has thought about ending it, tell someone you trust today, and pray for that man by name.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (REVELATION 9:4)

DAY 2 OF 5

The Destroyer's Army

READ · REVELATION 9:7–12

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

List every “like” John uses to describe the locusts, and write down the name of their king (9:7–11).

REFLECT

The locusts have faces like men but teeth like lions and stings in their tails (9:7–10). How has sin looked friendly to you at first and then turned on you?

REFLECT

Their king is named Abaddon and Apollyon — destruction (9:11). What has the old life destroyed in your story, and what is Jesus rebuilding?

RESPOND — TODAY

Write two lists side by side: what the destroyer took from you, and what Jesus has given back. Thank God for the second list.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (REVELATION 9:4)

DAY 3 OF 5

From the Golden Altar

READ · REVELATION 9:13–16

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

Where does the voice come from, and what had the four angels been prepared for (9:13, 15)?

REFLECT

The command comes from "the golden altar which is before God" — the same altar where the prayers rose (9:13). What does it mean to you that heaven's business moves on prayer?

REFLECT

The angels were held for "the hour and day and month and year" (9:15). Where do you need to trust God's exact timing instead of your own?

RESPOND — TODAY

Pray today for one situation where you are impatient, and hand the timing back to God out loud.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (REVELATION 9:4)

DAY 4 OF 5

Fire, Smoke and Brimstone

READ · REVELATION 9:17–19

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What comes out of the horses' mouths, and how many of mankind are killed (9:17–18)?

REFLECT

A third of mankind is killed by these plagues (9:18). How does the seriousness of God's judgment change the way you see sin you have been treating lightly?

REFLECT

The horses do harm with their mouths and with their tails (9:19). What damage has your own mouth done this month, and who do you need to make it right with?

RESPOND — TODAY

Go to one person you have hurt with your words and make it right, as far as it depends on you.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (REVELATION 9:4)

DAY 5 OF 5

They Did Not Repent

READ · REVELATION 9:20–21

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

Write down every sin the survivors refused to turn from (9:20–21).

REFLECT

They kept worshiping idols "which can neither see nor hear nor walk" (9:20). What is a dead thing you keep going back to, expecting it to give you life?

REFLECT

"Sorceries" sits right beside murder and theft on the list (9:21). What is God saying to you about the substances, or other ways of numbing out, that still have a grip on you?

RESPOND — TODAY

Name one thing God has been warning you about, confess it to Him and to one brother, and turn from it today — not later.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (REVELATION 9:4)

WHEN THE GROUP MEETS

Questions for the table

FOR THE GROUP · 1

Why do you think God shows us so plainly that the enemy can only go as far as He allows (9:1, 4–5, 15)?

FOR THE GROUP · 2

What is the difference between being hurt by consequences and actually repenting, according to 9:20–21?

FOR THE GROUP · 3

How can our group help each other turn when God's warnings come, instead of going back to normal (9:20)?

MY PRAYER

Lord God, You hold the key and You know every chain I carry, so today I turn to You from…

CUT OUT · CARRY IT · REVELATION 9:4

"They were told not to hurt the grass of the earth, nor any green thing, nor any tree, but only the men who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads."