

Small Group Study: Week 13

Welcome to the final week of the “Off the Shelf” Small Group study. Throughout this 13 week series, we hope this study has helped you and your group further grasp the overall story of the Bible and what it means for your lives today. This study builds on each weekend’s sermon, so please make it a priority to listen to the sermon before meeting with your group this week. If you were unable to catch the sermon this weekend, check it out at firstdeatur.org/sermons. Also, if you need an online Bible, please download the YouVersion Bible App from the App Store or Google Play.



Getting Started

This week we are closing our study by taking a look at the book of Revelation. The book of Revelation was written by Jesus’ disciple named John, who also wrote the Gospel of John and the letters we know as 1, 2 and 3 John. John wrote this book to seven churches in what is modern-day Turkey. The book of Revelation can be confusing to read because it is a letter, but it also contains prophetic and apocalyptic literature. In other words, it contains prophecy and images that are difficult for us to decipher with absolute certainty. The good news is that we can decipher the overall message of Revelation. That message is that in the end, Christ will return, evil will be abolished, all will be made new, and we will be with God.

- ▶ The book of Revelation focuses on the end of time and the end of the Biblical story. Some endings are sad, but other endings are happy. To get the conversation going today, have each person in the group share about a happy ending they have experienced. Have them share why it was such a joyful experience.
- ▶ For those who participated in one of the Bible reading plans last week, what was your biggest takeaway?



Read Revelation 21:1-8

This is one of the most beautiful passages in the Bible. As John’s vision comes to a close, he sees the creation of a new heaven and a new earth. As the old order is wiped away and God creates something new, God is now able to once again dwell with human beings as he did in the Garden of Eden with Adam and Eve. The story has come full circle. As evil is removed from the equation, God is also able to eliminate death, mourning, crying, and pain.



Talk About It

- ▶ What do you think it was like for John to experience this vision? How would you have felt if you were John?
- ▶ What do you think it will be like to have God dwell with us? How will it impact our relationship with him, with one another, and with the environment around us?
- ▶ When you think of the absence of death, mourning, crying, and pain, how does that make you feel?
- ▶ Verse 8 serves as a reminder that this incredible moment isn’t incredible for everyone. How should this verse motivate us to share the good news of Jesus?
- ▶ What questions does this passage bring to the surface for you? What are you going to do with those questions?

Off Shelf



Talk About It

Thank you again for joining us on this thirteen-week journey through the Bible. We hope this has been an opportunity for you to understand better the story of the Bible and what that means for your life today. As we close this study, take some time to reflect as a group on what you have learned and the new questions you have about the Bible.

- ▶ If you could sum up your learning from this series in one word (other than “Bible”), what would that word be? How does that word reflect what you’ve learned?
- ▶ How has this series impacted the way you think about the Bible and God?
- ▶ What has been the biggest challenge for you about this series?
- ▶ What are the new questions you have about the Bible as a result of this series?



Pray

Pray for one another this week that you will each understand God’s Word more deeply and intimately, and continue to allow it to shape you each day.



Bible Reading Plan

Please continue reading the Bible reading plan together as a group this week. Encourage one another throughout the week to stay engaged and finish the plan.