

LifeGroup Leader Discussion Guide
Apocalypse of Hope: Face Like the Sun

Revelation 1 | Key Verses: 17–18

20260118

Big Idea for Leaders

Revelation 1 reframes reality. Before it explains the future, it **reveals Jesus**—alive, authoritative, radiant, and present with His church. The goal of this discussion is not speculation, but **formation**: helping people see their lives under the light of a settled throne and a living King.

Introduction (Leader Framing)

Revelation opens not with chaos, beasts, or timelines—but with **Jesus revealed**. John meets the risen Christ whose face shines like the sun, whose voice overpowers the noise of the world, and who stands **among** His churches. This chapter invites us to trade panic for perspective and fear for worship.

Encourage the group: *“Tonight isn’t about figuring everything out. It’s about seeing Jesus more clearly.”*

1. First Reactions to Revelation

Question:

When you hear the word “Revelation,” what is the first image or feeling that comes to mind? Has your past experience with this book been more about “deciphering codes” or “finding hope”?

Leader Insights:

- This question surfaces **baggage**—fear, confusion, fascination, or avoidance.
- Normalize mixed reactions. Many people associate Revelation with anxiety rather than assurance.
- Gently reframe: Revelation means *unveiling*, not hiding.

Leader Tip:

If the group leans toward fear or confusion, affirm their honesty and say:

“Revelation was written to suffering churches—not to scare them, but to steady them.”

2. Sermon Reflection**Question:**

What insights, comments, or questions do you have about this week’s sermon?

Leader Insights:

- Let the group set the agenda here.
- Listen for emotional responses (comfort, conviction, confusion), not just intellectual ones.
- Clarify misconceptions gently, but don’t hijack the conversation.

Leader Tip:

If discussion stalls, ask:

- “What image of Jesus stuck with you most?”
 - “What felt challenging or comforting?”
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3. Reading Revelation 1 Aloud**Question:**

Have someone read Revelation 1 out loud. What words, phrases, or images stand out to you?

Leader Insights:

- Hearing Scripture read aloud mirrors how early churches experienced Revelation.
- Encourage noticing **imagery**, not interpretation yet.
- Key images to watch for: white hair, blazing eyes, bronze feet, shining face, lampstands, voice like water.

Leader Tip:

Resist explaining too quickly. Let wonder come before meaning.

4. Reviving the Imagination

Question:

Eugene Peterson writes that Revelation is meant to “revive our imagination.” Why do you think our spiritual lives can sometimes become “bored” or “routine”?

Leader Insights:

- This addresses spiritual numbness, not spiritual failure.
- Many believers reduce faith to information, habits, or moral checklists.
- Revelation invites awe, mystery, and worship.

Leader Prompt:

- “What steals your sense of wonder?”
- “Where has faith felt more like maintenance than encounter?”

Key Insight:

Boredom in faith often comes not from too much mystery—but too little vision of Jesus.

5. Competing Voices

Question:

Jesus’ voice is described as “rushing water.” What are the loudest voices in your life right now that make it hard to hear Jesus?

Leader Insights:

- This question moves from imagery to **personal reflection**.
- Expect answers like news, social media, fear, self-criticism, busyness.

Leader Tip:

Avoid offering quick fixes. The goal is awareness, not guilt.

Follow-Up Prompt:

- “What might it look like for Jesus’ voice to be louder than those this week?”
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6. Throne Perspective

Question:

The word “throne” appears 42 times in Revelation. How would your commute or workday change if you viewed it through the lens of a settled authority in heaven rather than a crisis on earth?

Leader Insights:

- Revelation doesn’t deny chaos—it **repositions** it.
- Earth may feel unstable, but heaven is not improvising.

Leader Illustration:

- Contrast “*Everything depends on me*” with “*Everything rests under Him.*”

Leader Tip:

Help the group connect theology to Tuesday morning traffic and Monday emails.

7. When the Throne Feels Empty

Question:

In what area of your life does it currently feel like the “throne is empty”? How can this group help you remember that the throne is occupied?

Leader Insights:

- This is a vulnerable question—set a tone of safety.
- Common areas: finances, health, relationships, future decisions.

Leader Role:

- Encourage mutual support, prayer, and reminders of truth.
- This is where the group becomes the *lampstand*—holding light for one another.

Leader Tip:

Don’t rush to solutions. Presence often preaches louder than advice.

8. Jesus Among the Lampstands

Question:

Jesus is seen standing among the lampstands (the churches). Does Jesus feel close to your current struggles, or does He feel distant?

Leader Insights:

- Validate honest answers—distance does not equal unbelief.
- Revelation 1 insists Jesus is **present**, even when unseen.

Leader Reminder:

Feelings can be powerful, but they don't overrule the truth that Jesus is present.

9. Living with the End in Mind

Question:

If "last things" are meant to help us live well in the middle of our mess, what is one end-of-the-story truth that helps you get through this week?

Leader Insights:

- Revelation ends with restoration, not destruction.
- Anchor responses in truths like:
 - Jesus is alive
 - Death is defeated
 - Evil does not win
 - God dwells with His people

Leader Close:

Invite the group to name hope out loud—it strengthens faith.
