

**DAY ONE**

1. What thought from the introductory commentary or reflection made you interested or motivated to study this book of the bible?

**Read Revelation 1:1-3**

**NOTE: Formerly, this book was entitled The Apocalypse but is now called The Revelation to John. Notice that the title is singular, Revelation, not plural, Revelations.**

2. We begin our study today as one, continuing, unfolding revelation by Jesus Christ was made known to John. Answer the following questions from verse 1 that describe how the revelation came to him.

What was the source of the revelation?

How was it made known?

3. In verse 2 John called himself a witness to the word of God and testimony of Jesus who reported what he saw. As Christians, we are called to witness to others about the good news of Christ to the world. Give an example when you have recently done this or missed an opportunity to do so.

4a. John called this book a prophetic message (verse 3). Who would be blessed in connection with the prophecy?

**Note: This is the first of seven beatitudes in this book. *NABRE***

b. In the bible, to be blessed is a sign of God's love. Look up one of the following verses and record the relevant blessing.

Genesis 1:22

Luke 1:42

5a. At the end of verse 3, the author created a sense of urgency about this message by saying, "...the appointed time is near." (See also verse 1, "...what must happen soon.") What do you think this meant to the Christians of John's time?

b. Read Mark 13:31-32. Is there anything that "must happen soon" in your life or any aspect of your life or faith that presents you with a sense of urgency?

6. CONNECTION: Today we read about three blessings associated with those who study the Word of God in the Revelation to John. As we begin our study this year, consider how you might start a new practice or habit to realize one or more of these blessings. Record some specific examples of how you will do this from the list below to share with your group.

Blessed is the one who reads aloud.

Blessed are those who listen to this prophetic message.

Blessed are those who pay attention to what is written in it.

Reread today's bible passage aloud prayerfully to begin your prayer time.

## **DAY TWO**

**Read Revelation 1:4-7**

7a. As we begin today, we learn that the prophecy of the revelation began with letters to seven churches in Asia (verse 4). The number seven is a biblical number suggesting fullness and completeness. With that in mind, what might have been the significance of writing to seven churches?

b. Numbers were important symbols and held meaning for these ancient people. Give an example of a number that has particular meaning for you.

**NOTE: The number seven is used fifty-four times in this book. *Revelation Catholic Commentary, Peter Williamson***

8. In verses 4-5, John greeted his readers with prayers of grace and peace. Identify who or what you think was described in the following phrases.

from him who is and who was and who is to come

from the seven spirits before his throne

from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead and ruler of the kings of the earth.

9. List the wonderful things Jesus did for his people according to John from the second sentence of verse 5 and verse 6.

10a. After reminding the people of Jesus' great love, John issued his first prophecy in verse 7. Read this message that begins with the word, "Behold," and record one phrase from this verse that reflects your thoughts about what might happen.

b. This was a familiar image to the people of this time. Look up one of the following verses and record a phrase that reminds you of verse 7.

Zechariah 12:10

Matthew 24:30

Acts 1:11

11. CONNECTION: The Revelation to John opens with a letter to God's people that begins with gracious words, greeting them with the grace and peace of God. We also use words of blessing and grace in the course of daily life or in letters and cards. Share with your group a blessing or grace you received or gave that has particular meaning for you.

John concludes his prophecy with the words, "Yes, Amen," to affirm his witness and trust in God. Record 2 Corinthians 1:20 and write a prayer today saying "Yes, Amen" to God.

### **DAY THREE**

**Read Revelation 1:8-11**

12. As we begin today's lesson, John ended his greeting to the seven churches with an oracle from God. Record verse 8. (Good memory verse)

13. The Lord God described himself in multiple ways in verse 8. Select one or two of these from the list below and record what it means to you.

the Alpha

the Omega

the one who is

who was

who is to come

the almighty

14a. How did John describe himself in verse 9, and what reason did he share with his readers about why he was on the island of Patmos?

b. In your own words, describe why you think John was on the island and what might be going on in his world at this time.

**NOTE: Patmos was an island in the Aegean Sea, 50 miles south of Ephesus, used by the Romans as a penal colony. *NABRE***

15a. According to verse 10, how did John describe the events on the Lord's day?

b. What are some ways that we can be caught up "in spirit" on the Lord's day?

**NOTE: The "Lord's day" refers to Sunday, the day of Jesus' resurrection. This is the first and only use of this expression in the New Testament. See Acts 20:7. *Williamson***

16. What two instructions did John receive from the loud trumpet-like voice (verse 11)?

17. **CONNECTION:** On the island of Patmos on the Lord's day, John received a revelation from God to teach the seven churches. The people and works of these churches were familiar to John. Churches play an important role in the life of a community, as well as in the lives of their members. List seven churches that have been important in your life. In a few words, note why each of them was a gift in your life. Can you describe how one has played a role in the life of the community?

In your prayer time today, pray for the church and its success in bringing its mission to the world.

#### **DAY FOUR**

##### **Read Revelation 1:12-14**

18. As we begin today's lesson, John heard a loud voice. As he turned toward it, he saw seven gold lampstands (verse 12). Lampstands were used to hold oil for light. What image does this suggest in your mind as John's first vision continued?

19. How was the person who appeared in the midst of the lampstands described according to verse 13?

**NOTE: Borrowing images from the Books of Ezekiel and Daniel, John describes Jesus in both divine and human terms. A symbolic description of Christ in glory, using metaphorical language, is not to be understood literally. *Ignatius Catholic Study Bible; NABRE***

20a. How was the whiteness of his hair described, and what might be the symbolic meaning of the color white (verse 14)?

b. Where do you traditionally see the color white worn in the church today?

21. Verse 14 also described his eyes as being like a "fiery flame." Share some thoughts about what this image means to you.

22. This was a familiar image for John's readers who were acquainted with the Hebrew Scriptures. Read [Daniel 7:9-14](#) and record one or two phrases that are similar to the one John described.

23. **CONNECTION:** In John's first vision, Christ is portrayed as the risen and glorified Christ. The image of Jesus in a priestly white robe with flowing white hair and gold sash was directed to the people of that time. Jesus' triumph over suffering and death was meant to reassure John's readers and us that he has the power to protect those who faithfully endure suffering and hardship in this world. We too have a mental image of Jesus. Describe the way you picture Jesus and share with your group why it is meaningful to you.

Mother Teresa once said that she sees the face of Jesus in every human being, “This is hungry Jesus, I must feed him. This is sick Jesus, this one has leprosy or gangrene; I must wash and tend to him. I serve because I love Jesus.” Let thoughts of seeing Jesus in those around you lead you into prayer.

#### DAY FIVE

#### Read Revelation 1:15-16

24. In today’s passage, John continued to describe the image of Jesus in his vision. Record below the descriptive phrases used in verse 15 and note what each might symbolize.

His feet  
symbolizes:

his voice  
symbolizes:

**NOTE: Since human language falters before an experience of the divine, John can only describe this divine man with a complex of images. *Niemann***

25a. According to verse 16, the man held seven stars in his right hand. Record what came out of his mouth from the first part of the second sentence of that verse.

b. Read Hebrews 4:12. How does St. Paul explain what this verse might mean?

26. How did John describe the man’s face at the end of verse 16?

27. The image of God’s shining face recurs throughout scripture. Record a similar phrase from one of the following verses.

Numbers 6:25

Psalm 67:2

Matthew 17:2

28. Describe a time when you looked upon the face of another that shone with brightness.

29. CONNECTION: Today we studied John's symbolic images of the resurrected Christ. John tells us that the voice he heard was like the sound of rushing water. The rushing water of a thunderstorm, ocean waves or rivers can make it hard to hear. Yet there is no denying that the sound of rushing water also can be comforting and provide feelings of tranquility. God wants to speak to us and is waiting for us to listen and become aware of his presence. Think of what rushing water means in your life and share with your group how it has led you or might lead you to hear the voice of Jesus.

Listen today for the voice of Jesus in the sounds of your everyday life and let that lead you into prayer.

#### **DAY SIX**

**Read Revelation 1:17-20**

30. Today John described his reaction to his vision of Jesus. What did John do in verse 17?

31. The man then touched John with his right hand and reassured John with the familiar, comforting words of scripture, "Do not be afraid." He then gave him several reasons not to fear. Complete these reasons from verses 17-18 below.

I am the first and the last

Once I was dead,

I hold the keys to death

32a. In your own words, what did the man reveal to John about his identity in verses 17-18.

b. Select one of the phrases from verses 17-18 and explain what you find reassuring and why you would not be afraid.

33. What three things was John instructed to write according to verse 19?

34. In verse 20 the man explained the secret meaning of some of the symbolism of John's vision. Complete the meaning of the following phrases from that verse:

seven stars in my right hand

seven gold lampstands

35. CONNECTION: Today, Jesus revealed that nothing is beyond his power; “Once I was dead, but now I am alive forever and ever.” These words must have meant a lot to the people of John’s time who were living under harsh treatment by the Roman government. They were inspired with hope and courage to face the challenges of their lives. The same is true for us who remain faithful today. Think of a major concern in your life right now that seems hopeless and needs the saving power of Jesus. Share with your group how your confidence in Jesus can bring you peace and comfort.

St. Paul tells us to “Rejoice in hope, endure in affliction, persevere in prayer.” (Romans 12:12) Let this thought lead you into prayer today.

Read pages 5-20 in the *New Collegeville Commentary, The Book of Revelation* by Catherine A. Cory. The Cornerstone Catholic Scripture Study acknowledges that scripture quotations in this study are from the New American Bible, Revised Edition (NABRE) © 2010, 1991, 1970 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Inc., Washington, DC. All Rights Reserved. Used by permission.

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