

**DAY ONE**

1. Share with your group something that has stayed with you this week from the lesson, talks or your small group meeting.

**Read Revelation 10:1-6**

**NOTE:** Chapter 10 is an interlude between the sixth and seventh trumpet similar to the pause between the sixth and seventh seals. It renews the commission to John to write down the prophetic visions (Revelation 1:11) and takes place back on earth. *Ignatius*

2a. As our lesson begins, John had a vision of a mighty angel coming down from heaven wrapped in a cloud. Describe the angel from verse 1.

b. From one of these descriptions below, comment on what this suggests to you about the identity or mission of the angel.

wrapped in a cloud

halo or rainbow

feet like pillars of fire

face like the sun

3. The angel held in his hand a small scroll that had been opened. His right foot was placed on the sea, his left foot on the land (verse 2). What do you think the angel's position implies?

4a. The angel cried out with the voice of a lion along with raised voices of the seven thunders (verse 3). As John was about to write down what the seven thunders had spoken, he heard someone speaking from heaven. Record what was said from verse 4.

b. What possible reason could there be for not passing on what he heard?

5a. The angel standing on land and sea raised his right hand to heaven (verse 5). What did he do according to verse 6?

b. What do you think is meant by no more delay? (see [Daniel 12:7](#); [Hebrews 10:37](#))

[Daniel 12:7](#)

[Hebrews 10:37](#)

6. CONNECTION: After John was given the open scroll, he was told to seal it and not write its contents down. Jesus often told someone he healed to not speak of it to anyone. For those times he only asked for faith and trust. Can you think of a time when you were asked to keep something to yourself? Without any specifics, share some thoughts on how you felt being entrusted with a friend, co-worker or loved one's confidential situation.

Record [Proverbs 11:13](#) and in your prayer time ask for God's grace to help you to be a trusted and faithful confidant.

## **DAY TWO**

**Read Revelation 10:7-11**

7a. The angel standing on land and sea continued to speak. What did he say would happen when the seventh angel blows his trumpet (verse 7)?

b. Like these people we also experience the mysteries of God. What is one mystery you would ask God to reveal to you?

8. The voice from heaven again spoke to John. Record what John heard according to verse 8.

9a. Complete the following directives from the angel in response to John's request for the scroll (verse 9).

Take and

It will turn

in your mouth it will

b. How was this a metaphor for John's work?

**NOTE: The small scroll was sweet because it predicted the final victory of God's people; it was sour because it also announced their sufferings. *NABRE***

10. John did as he was told and the result was bittersweet just as the angel predicted (verse 10). Describe a recent time when you experienced something that seemed good but later proved to be exactly the opposite.

11a. John once more heard someone speak to him (verse 11). Record the command he was given.

b. This command to prophesy points to interaction within a global community. Who is a modern day prophet in the global community?

12. CONNECTION: John received and assimilated God's Word contained in the scroll until it became part of him. He was told to prophesy about many peoples, nations, tongues and kings in the scroll's worldwide message. We are privileged to taste the sweetness of the word of God, nurtured and become renewed in holiness and are asked to share or evangelize with others. To do this we must focus on bringing the message of the Gospel into people's hearts and minds, often a bittersweet challenge. What are some challenges or sweet rewards you experienced when you shared God's Word?

Write a prayer today asking God for his presence and strength as you share his message of the Gospel.

### DAY THREE

#### Read Revelation 11:1-5

13a. The interlude continued in Chapter 11 and John began to take an active role in the second vision. In verse 1 John was given a measuring rod. What was he told to do with it?

b. In John's time, to measure or count something meant to set it apart. With that idea in mind, what do you think was significant about this command?

14. John was instructed to exclude the outer court of the temple (verse 2). What was he told not to do and for what reason?

**NOTE: Forty-two months equal three and a half years or twelve hundred and sixty days. These numbers are all factors of the number seven, symbolizing completeness or perfection. Factors of seven refer to a time of persecution by the Romans and became the prototype of periods of trial for God's people. *NABRE***

15. John learned of two witnesses wearing sackcloth who would be commissioned to prophesy for twelve hundred and sixty days (verse 3). What do you recall about the wearing of sackcloth and what might that indicate about the ministry of the two witnesses?  
(see [Daniel 9:3](#); [Luke 10:13](#))

[Daniel 9:3](#)

[Luke 10:13](#)

16a. The two witnesses were described as they stood before the Lord of the earth (verse 4). Record below what you think the symbols used to describe them represent?

olive trees

lampstands

b. Look up one of the scripture verses below and record a phrase describing why it was important to have two witnesses.

[Deuteronomy 19:15:](#)

[Matthew 18:16](#)

John 8:17

**NOTE:** The two witnesses represent the Church's conviction that the Law and the Prophets were witnesses to Christ. Their fate symbolizes the rejection of the gospel by unbelievers. Some see them as historical individuals, either as two unknown martyrs or as Old Testament figures such as Moses and Elijah. *Ignatius*

17. Fill in below the consequences for attempting to harm the witnesses (verse 5).

fire comes out

and devours

In this way, anyone wanting to harm them is

18. CONNECTION: The two witnesses were called by God to wear sackcloth and prophesy for twelve hundred and sixty days. Their role as messengers for God would come with inevitable risk, suffering and rejection, similar to the Old Testament prophets and New Testament disciples. We are reminded that God guides and protects his witnesses. Have you ever been called to do something that involved a challenge or leap of faith outside of your comfort zone? Where did you find strength to complete the task? Give some details to share with your group.

Read Matthew 10:19-20 and reflect on the mission of the apostles as they were called to witness for God and the strength he provided.

**DAY FOUR**

Read Revelation 11:6-10

19. Today we learn of additional powers given to the two witnesses. Record below what they are and how they will use them according to verse 6.

power to close up the sky

during the

power to

and to afflict the earth

20. When the two witnesses have finished their testimony, the beast will come up from the abyss. Describe what the beast will do (verse 7).

**NOTE: In the Apocalypse the beast stands for the enemy of the Church and of God. There will be certain times before the End when the forces of evil will prevail, though only for a limited period.**  
*Navarre*

21a. According to verse 8, the slain witnesses will lie in the main street of the great city, symbolically named Sodom and Egypt. What was noted about this place from the end of verse 8?

b. If Sodom represents immorality and Egypt evokes oppression and slavery, to what city do you think this verse might refer?

22a. Who will gaze on the slain witnesses and for how long from the first part of verse 9?

b. We read in verse 9 that the witnesses' bodies were not allowed to be buried. Imagine yourself a bystander at the tragic deaths of the two witnesses. What might you have felt if you had been there?

23a. Why did the inhabitants of the earth gloat over them and exchange gifts (verse 10)?

b. Why do you think the inhabitants of the earth considered the message of the witnesses a torment to them?

24. CONNECTION: In today's passage we read of the martyrdom of the two witnesses. This is the greatest testimony of love that one can give, to lay down one's life. Jesus, in obedience, willingly accepted suffering and death for our salvation. The Church considers martyrdom the highest gift and act of love. In today's world, Christians continue to be persecuted and slain because of their faith. Think of someone in recent times who has been martyred for his or her faith. Share with your group some details.

Record John 3:16-17 and in your prayer time today, reflect on God's loving call for you to be his witness in the practice of your faith.

#### DAY FIVE

Read Revelation 11:11-14

25a. We begin today's lesson three and one half days later. Describe what happened to the two bodies and how the people who saw them reacted (verse 11).

b. The breath of God brought the witnesses to their feet revealing the power of the Spirit of God. Choose one of the following verses and record something similar.

Genesis 2:7

Ezekiel 37:9-10

John 6:63

26a. According to verse 12 what did the raised witnesses hear and how did they respond?

b. What do you think was God's message to their enemies at the scene?

27. What happened at that moment according to the first sentence in verse 13?

**NOTE: The "city" represents all the inhabitants of the earth who have oppressed the testimony of the Church, the two witnesses. *Williamson***

28. The earthquake took the lives of seven thousand people. Describe the reaction of the survivors and comment on the sincerity of their conversion (remainder of verse 13).

29. Record the statement and warning given in verse 14.

**NOTE: Though the narrator announced the passing of the second woe and coming of the third, it is not certain which is the second, the releasing of the four angels at the four corners of the universe (9:13-19) or the vindication of the two witnesses (11: 1-13), John does not clearly identify the third woe. *Collegeville***

30. CONNECTION: Today we read of the slain witnesses being awakened by the breath of life from God. They were instructed by a loud voice in heaven to “come up here,” and were carried up to heaven in a cloud in the presence of their enemies. Suffering and death would not have the last word. God does not abandon those who stand with him, but lovingly calls them home. This should be a huge comfort for us as we say our last goodbyes to a loved one, celebrate the liturgy at a funeral service, or contemplate our own final days. Share with your group how this passage brings thoughts and new hope concerning God’s promise of eternal life after death?

Read and record John 5:25 and as you pray be mindful of the holy souls who have been called by God to share in his kingdom.

#### **DAY SIX**

**Read Revelation 11:15-19**

31a. Today marks a return to heaven and the blowing of the seventh and final trumpet by the angel. Record from verse 15 the words of the loud voices in heaven at the sound of the trumpet.

b. The seven trumpets have revealed the following:

1<sup>st</sup> Trumpet: hail and fire mixed with blood (Revelation 8:12)

2<sup>nd</sup> Trumpet: burning mountain thrown into the sea (Revelation 8:8)

3<sup>rd</sup> Trumpet: burning star (Wormwood) yielding bitter water (Revelation 8:10)

4<sup>th</sup> Trumpet: one third of the sun, moon and stars became dark (Revelation 8:12)

5<sup>th</sup> Trumpet: plague of locusts (Revelation 9:1-11)

6<sup>th</sup> Trumpet: invading army killing 1/3 of humanity (Revelation 9:12-21)

7<sup>th</sup> Trumpet: announced the eternal reign of the Kingdom of God

Is the heavenly announcement in verse 15 what you anticipated at the sounding of the seventh trumpet? Explain your answer.

32. How did the twenty-four elders who sat on their thrones before God react at the trumpet sound in verse 16?

33a. The elders offered praise and thanks to the Lord God Almighty. How do they address God in verse 17?



b. Earlier we read (Revelation 1:4, 8) that God was described as “who is and who was and who is to come.” Note the change in wording and what you think that means.

34. We learn in verse 18 that the time has come for judging, rewarding and destroying. Who are the groups that will be rewarded?

35a. Record what was revealed when God’s temple in heaven was opened according to the first sentence of verse 19.

**NOTE: The ark was the most important symbol of God’s presence with Israel in the Old Testament. The appearance of the heavenly ark here indicates the time has arrived when God will gather and save his people. *Williamson***

b. What sights and sounds resulted from this revelation in the remainder of verse 19?

36. CONNECTION: The sound of the seventh trumpet in heaven announced that the reign of the Lord is forever and ever. It also marks the concluding scene of the first half of the Revelation to John and gives way to a beautiful vision of hope and consolation. The scene brings a powerful chorus of thanksgiving and affirms the power of God’s Kingdom and Jesus the Lamb over those who destroy the earth. The glory of God assures that the faithful will be rewarded. This glorious halftime finish will give way to the ultimate battles between God and the powers of evil in the second half of our study. Can you share some thoughts on how this study, thus far, has changed you, offered you new insights or perspective on the Book of Revelation?

Jesus taught the apostles and continues to ask us to pray constantly to the Father, “Thy Kingdom come.” Pray these sacred words often as a reminder of God’s love and desire to bring us home to his Kingdom.

Read pages 46-52 in the *New Collegeville Commentary, The Book of Revelation* by Catherine A. Cory, Ph.D. 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.