



REVELATION

GROUP GUIDE: WEEK 4

CONVERSATION STARTER

What is your favorite song and why?

SINGING A NEW SONG TO GOD

In the Exodus story, God miraculously delivers His people out of slavery in Egypt and then splits the waters of the sea, allowing them to safely pass through to the other side. Once they reach the other side, the people sing a great victory song to God. Exodus 15:2 says:

“The Lord is my strength and my defense;
he has become my salvation.
He is my God, and I will praise him,
my father’s God, and I will exalt him.”

Over the generations, God’s people again found themselves under oppression by foreign rulers. They longed for the time when God would again deliver them, when they could sing a *new song* to their Savior. In Revelation 15, God’s people stand on the shore of the sea and look forward to His final judgment of the beast, the Roman Empire. We’re told they sing the song of Moses and the Lamb.

“Great and amazing are your deeds,
O Lord God the Almighty!
Just and true are your ways,
O King of the nations!
Who will not fear, O Lord,
and glorify your name?
For you alone are holy.

All nations will come
and worship you,
for your righteous acts have been revealed.”

This isn't just any song; this is *the song*, the ultimate song representing the ultimate victory of God over the forces desiring to keep God's people enslaved and oppressed. For those who were living under the boot of the Roman Empire, this would be a great source of encouragement. Even when it looks like nothing could defeat the beast, they can rest assured that God will deliver them, just as He did thousands of years ago in Egypt.

Take a minute to discuss this idea with your group as you feel comfortable sharing. Are there any seas you've crossed with God's help? How are we still as the Church waiting to join the chorus of this new song for God's ultimate victory over evil?

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. What stuck out to you about the reading from this week or last? Was there a verse or idea that was particularly meaningful or challenging for you?
2. Read Revelation 14:12-13. The Holy Spirit says in 14:13 that the deeds of the faithful ones have eternal ripples. Whose faithfulness sent ripples into your life? In other words, whose shoulders are you standing on? And who might one day be standing on the shoulders of your faithfulness to Jesus?
3. Judgment is a major theme in this week's reading. Be honest with your group. What do these passages make you think or feel as you read? The best thing we can do here is lean in and wrestle through these ideas together. Why do you think God's judgment is a necessary part of the story?
4. Another major theme of this section is the fact that God can use what the world meant for evil to bring about goodness. How have you seen this to be true, either in your own story or in the story of others?

WEEKLY PRACTICE

After they crossed the sea, God's people sang a victory song to God. In Revelation, the *new song* of chapter 15 looks forward to the ultimate victory of God over evil. Take a moment this week to craft your own song of praise to God. It can be as long or as short as you'd like, but try to incorporate the following elements. When you've finished, spend a few moments praying your song back to God.

- Thank God for the ways He's delivered you thus far in your story.
- Use this as an opportunity to shower God with praise and adoration for the ways you've seen His fingerprints over your life.
- End by confessing the areas where you're still waiting for deliverance and God's justice, both in your own story and the grand story of the world.