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# REVELATION

GOD IS IN CONTROL OF ALL THINGS

## FAMILY CONVERSATION GUIDE

### THE THEME

God is in control of all things.

### JANUARY MEMORY VERSE

I am the “Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty.” **Revelation 1:8 ESV**

### JANUARY CHALLENGE VERSE

“Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in.” **Revelation 3:20a ESV**

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### REVELATION 1 - LIFE APPLICATION

Remember that Jesus is the First and will be the Last, the Beginning and the End.

## NOTE TO PARENTS

In **Daniel 11-12**, Daniel was given visions by the Lord about the future of the Jews, Daniel's people and God's chosen people, and also about the end of times. After showing these visions to Daniel, God told him to "shut up the words and seal the book, and to go his way (to continue to live faithfully and in obedience)."

Now, in the **Book of Revelation**, many years later, John, the disciple loved by Jesus, is given words and visions of heaven and Jesus, and prophecies about the end of times. Each week, read the scripture and listen to the sermon, in person or online, before discussing with your family. This series is not meant to instill fear in children and families, but to strengthen them with the knowledge that God has a plan, is over all things, knows all things, and He is with us through all things.

### DISCUSS:

1. **Do you remember what happened to Daniel in the Book of Daniel, chapters 11 and 12?** *(God gave Daniel visions about what would happen to his people, the Jews, and to the world in the end of times.)*

**How did Daniel react to these words and visions?** *(He lost his strength, and he didn't understand what he was being told.)*

**What did the Lord tell Daniel to do in Daniel 12:9?** *(He said, "Go your way, Daniel, for the words are shut up and sealed until the time of the end.)*

2. We are going to be studying the **Book of Revelation** in the next few months. This revelation was a prophecy given to John by Jesus Christ through an angel of the Lord. **What is a prophecy?** *(It is when God reveals to us what is going to happen in the future. This can happen with spoken words, in dreams, or seeing visions.)*
3. Let's learn a few things about John before we get started:
  - John was a disciple of Jesus, and he was called "the one Jesus loved" in John's gospel
  - He was a fisherman, called by Jesus to follow him when he was a teenager
  - He wrote the **Gospel of John**, and **John 1, 2, and 3**
  - He was about 90 years old and on the island of Patmos when he received the words of **Revelation**.

4. John wrote letters (see **verse 4**). **To whom was he writing?** (*The seven churches in the province of Asia, in the area that is known as Turkey today*).

**And, who are the letters from?**

- From Him who is and who was and who is to come (The Lord God)
  - From the seven spirits who are before His throne which means the Holy Spirit
  - And from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth. (**Do you see the Trinity here?** God the Father, Jesus the Son, and the Holy Spirit?)
  - Through John, His faithful servant
5. Read **Revelation 1, verses 5 and 7**. **What did we learn about Jesus?** (*Have your kids read with you and list what they learned about Jesus.*) Wow! Jesus is amazing! **Did you know that Jesus will come back one day with the clouds?** Just as he left the earth in **Acts 1:9**. So cool!
6. Now, let's read **verses 9-11**. **Where was John when he received these revelations from Jesus?** (**Verse 9** - *John had been banished to the island of Patmos because he was spreading the word about Jesus. This must have angered the authorities where he was preaching!*)
- In **verse 10**, John was "in the Spirit" when he heard a loud voice that told him to send what he heard to the seven churches. **How would you feel if that happened to you?** (*Let family members respond.*)
7. Read **verses 12-18**. John saw seven lampstands. **Who did he see standing there?** (*One like the son of man.*) **Who do you think that was?** (*Jesus, often described in this way—especially in **Daniel 7**.*) **Describe him for me!** (*Have your kids describe the appearance of Jesus. You may want to ask them to draw a picture! Kids learn best when they are being creative.*)
8. **What happened to John when he saw Jesus (Verse 17)? What did Jesus do when John fell at His feet?** (*He laid His right hand on John and told him not to be afraid.*)

**What did Jesus say about Himself?** (*"I am the first and the last, and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades."*) Jesus is over ALL things! Jesus told John to write the things that will be shown to him. **Why do you think Jesus wanted John to do this?** (*He*

wanted us to know what is to come.)

9. Finally, Jesus revealed what the seven stars and seven lampstands are - let's read **verse 20** to find out! (*The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches.*) Angels could be literal angels assigned to each church. But most people think these are each church's pastor that oversees them. **Do you think churches are important to Jesus? And the pastors of the church? How about our church? And our pastors?** (*Discuss.*)

## FAMILY CHALLENGE

1. Challenge your family to memorize this month's verse, which is found in **Revelation 1:8**.

*"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty."*

Use a small poster board or individual cards and markers. Write the words of the verse and decorate! Read the verse out loud in a dramatic voice, then ask each family member to read the verse. See if you can memorize the verse by placing it on a wall where everyone can see it and saying it as you walk by, or at dinner, or in the car.

2. For younger kids: Watch "A Forever Promise" in The Bible App for Kids. **Does God have a special plan for us?**

## PRAYER

Dear Jesus, We love You and we trust You. We know that You are over all things, good and bad, and You are with those who follow You. Help us, as we study Revelation in the next few months, to understand and to be strong in the knowledge that You have a good plan for us. In Your Name we pray, Amen.