
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 NIV**

JANUARY 14 - LIFE APPLICATION

Love the Lord your God with all your heart.

NOTE TO PARENTS

In the **Book of Revelation**, John, the disciple loved by Jesus, is given words and visions of heaven and Jesus, and prophecies about the end of times. Remind your family that God has a plan, is over all things, knows all things, and He is with us through all things. Please read the scripture and listen to the sermon, in person or online, before discussing with your family.

DISCUSS:

In **Revelation chapter 1**, who told John to write letters to the churches? (*Verses 19, 20 - Jesus told him to do this.*) In **Revelation 2, verses 1-11**, John wrote letters to two churches.

Read each section of scripture and answer the questions:

The Church at Ephesus

1. Read **verses 1-7**. Jesus praised the church for some good things they were doing. **What were they?** (*Discuss, then list.*)
 - They worked hard for Jesus.
 - They were patient and kept going (endured), not growing weary.
 - They hated evil, as Jesus did - especially the Nicolaitians, who believed they could sin greatly because they would be forgiven through God's grace.
2. Jesus had some negative things to say to them. **What were they?**
 - They had abandoned (forgotten) their first love. **What should be our first love?** (*Read the Life Application for this week: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart."*)
 - **Who else does God want us to love?** (*Our neighbors, each other.*)
 - **What did John tell them they needed to do?** (*Repent, remember Who they belonged to and Who they served with all they did.*)
3. Jesus had some warnings for the church at Ephesus. **What were they?**
 - If they did not repent, Jesus would remove their lampstand from its place, turn from them, and they would lose His presence.
 - If they conquered, if they were overcomers of all that was against them, they would eat from the tree of eternal life in heaven.

The Church at Smyrna

4. Read **Revelation 2: 8-11**. Jesus was encouraging this church. Why?

- They were poor- they probably lost everything (or it was stolen from them) when they chose to follow Jesus.
- They were persecuted. Their friends and family turned on them when they became Christians. People spoke badly about them, even people who said they were believers but were not.
- Some were even thrown into prison.
- Jesus told the church through John's letter that they would suffer "for 10 days." (*This could have meant more time - like 10 years.*) But, He would know their tribulation and suffering, and those who were overcomers, who kept their faith, would live forever. He had nothing bad to say to this church, just encouragement.

FAMILY CHALLENGE

Jesus had John write letters to the seven churches to encourage them, to admonish them, and to warn them. **What if Jesus wrote a letter to your family?**

- **What would Jesus say you are doing well?** (Have you kept your "first love" for Jesus? How are you being faithful and staying connected to God in prayer and in the Word? How are you doing good works? Are you being persistent through hard times? Are you loving others and sharing your faith with them?)
- **What would He say you are NOT doing well?** (Are you caving in to the culture of the world? Are you confused about right and wrong? Do you believe that some sin is okay? Are you neglecting spending time connecting with God each day in prayer and in scripture?)
- **How would Jesus warn you?** (Do you need to repent and turn from sin or bad behavior? Do you need to show more love to others? Are you an overcomer?)

PRAYER

Dear Jesus, Thank You for the letters to the churches. They are good reminders that You are with us and You know all things. Help us to be faithful, to keep our love for You and for others strong, and to be overcomers of the bad things in this world. Help us to repent and turn from sin. In Your Name we pray, Amen.