

Sermon Discussion Guide

Revelation: A Broken World
Revelation 6:1-8, Mark 13:4-5, 7-8
September 20, 2020

Part 1: Pray

Every time we study God's word, we should ask God to use the Holy Spirit to prepare our hearts, teach us and mold us into who he created us to be. Ask God to reveal his truth to transform you through your discussion time.

Part 2: Read the Text

Read the passage(s) from the sermon. Keep a focus on key words, repeated phrases or major themes.

Part 3: Reflect on the Sermon

Introduction

1. What emotions are you experiencing about the year 2020?
2. What's your attitude moving forward in 2020? Cynically resigned? Hopeful? Apathetic?
3. Consider the timeliness of studying Revelation during this season. What lessons have you learned from the book so far that help during this challenging year?

A Broken World: The Reality.

1. Look again at the four horsemen and the different types of power and judgment they brought (crown of authority/conquest; sword sowing strife and division; famine, greed, economic injustice; death). What are some ways that we see each of these occurring in our country and world?

2. Ray explained that these horsemen paint a picture of a world where God's will is abandoned. Where have you seen glimpses of this picture in your life? In other words where have you seen destruction and negative results from a period of your life when you (or a family member or friend) abandoned God's will and authority?

3. Modern technology, engineering, skills, crafts and trades are the results of man's development and improvement, yet they are not enough to solve our greatest dilemma. Can you think of someone that is capable and skilled and believes this to be enough? What's keeping them from seeing their deep need for God?

4. Even in the midst of what seems like unending chaos, we proclaim that God is in control. How does the cross prove that everything is purposeful in our lives?

5. What in your life are you currently facing that has you doubting God's goodness and work?

6. What does Ray mean when he says that, "Sound theology aides good mental health."

A Broken World: The Response

1. Be are called to tenacious and have moral courage in the face of a chaotic world. What does it look like for you to have those things in your life?

2. Ray said that the world is going crazy because of the coddling of self and the unending selfishness of our culture. How does that lead to craziness and what's the remedy?

3. The promise of Revelation 6 is that there is justice coming. How does this help us today? How will you apply that principle in the year ahead, particularly with a momentous political season of a Supreme Court appointee and a presidential election?

4. Ray encouraged us to "stay at our desk" and to "not cower before the world." What does it mean to do these things?

5. The final thing we do in a chaotic season is pray. What makes prayer so important in a broken world? Take time in your group meeting to pray. Pray for all the things mentioned in the previous four questions and pray that God will give you grace and strength to endure as you face darkness and brokenness.

Part 4: Summarize the Message

How would you summarize the sermon to someone who has never heard it? What are your two or three key takeaways from the message and your discussion?

How does this sermon change your perspective on God? Your own heart? And/or, how to follow Jesus?