LIONS and DRAGONS and LAMBS, Oh My!: One who holds the keys

Pastor Derek Sanford

August 18, 2019

**Life Group Discussion Questions:**

1. Thinking back on this week’s sermon, was there a particular point or passage that challenged you, confused you, or caught your attention?
2. Most people have one of two unhealthy responses to the book of Revelation of either obsession or avoidance. Which one have you leaned toward and why.
3. The writer of the book of Revelation was the Apostle John. What do we know about him.
4. The word “Revelation” means “unveiling.” The point is to pull back the curtain of history of you can see the powers at work behind the scenes. Have you ever had that happen to you when the Holy Spirit showed you the meaning of a portion of Scripture?
5. Read **Revelation 1:5**. Have group members share which of these descriptions of Jesus are important to them right now and give reasons.
6. Read **Revelation 1:7**. This verse has been call the motto of Revelation. Why do you think that is and why is this verse so important to us? How can this verse impact how we live out our daily life?
7. Read **Revelation 1:12-16**. Recall from the sermon what descriptions like white hair, eyes of fie and words like a sward symbolized. What do these descriptions of Jesus before the throne tell you about Him.
8. Read **Revelation 1:17-18**. Why do you think John fell to the ground? How can we humble ourselves each day before our Lord? What do you think Jesus describes himself as he did to John? How is Jesus description important to you in your life right now.

**Next Steps:** What does it look like for your group to follow Christ right now?

**Prayer Thought:**

* **ADORATION:** Praise God for being in control of all history.
* **CONFESSION:**  Confess how in your pride you have tried to keep control of your life.
* **THANKSGIVING:** Thank Jesus for His promise to return to earth one day.
* **SUPPLICATION:** Ask God to help you faithfully serve Him this week like the Apostle John was faithful.

**Suggested Memory Verse:** Revelation 21:4 *He will wipe away ever tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.*

LIONS and DRAGONS and LAMBS, Oh My!: How to Make Jesus Sick

Pastor Derek Sanford

August 25, 2019

**Life Group Discussion Questions:**

1. Thinking back on this week’s sermon, was there a particular point or passage that challenged you, confused you, or caught your attention?
2. In his sermon, Pastor Derek outlines the great wealth and prosperity enjoyed by the church in Laodicea. As a result, pride entered the picture and the church didn’t rely on Jesus or need him as it should. In our modern culture of excess, wealth, and comfortable living, what similarities do you see in yourself with the ancient church in Laodicea? What about similarities in our modern Christian culture?
3. Pastor Derek’s big idea is “We can only overcome through intimate communion with Jesus, not material wealth. Read **John 14:6, John 6:48**, and **Matthew 11:28**. What do these scriptures reveal about the relationship that Jesus desires with us. What kinds of things does he offer us?
4. According to Pastor Derek’s sermon, one way we can overcome lukewarmness as a follower of Jesus is to go through a difficult time. Read **John 16:33**. How can this scripture serve as a catalyst for us to walk with Jesus through our suffering? In what ways has your own faith become stronger during hard times in your life?
5. In his sermon Pastor Derek discusses how this letter in Revelation displays the grace Jesus offers to us as sinners. We can be lukewarm and act like we don’t need him, but he still offers us the chance at a relationship with Him. Read **Revelation 3:19-20**. What does Jesus ask us to do? What does He in turn do for us?

**Next Steps:** As Pastor Derek mentioned at the end of his sermon, find those areas in your life where you are lukewarm, and invite Jesus in. Don’t wait another day!

**Prayer Moment**: As we read in **Revelation 3:19**, Jesus instructs us to be zealous and repent when we become lukewarm. During this prayer time, have one group member lead the group in a time of collective confession, and then spend a few moments in silent reflection.

Prayer (one person say a line out loud, rest of group repeat out loud or silently): Father, I confess that I don’t always see you for who you are. I confess that I allow my own ambitions and pride to get in the way of hearing your voice. Father forgive me. Help me to become more and more zealous to know you in an intimate way. Help me to seek communion with you over the things that world has to offer. Help me to know you and love you more and more every day.