

## Small Group Study Guide: "I AM THE FIRST AND THE LAST" - Revelation 1:9-20

### Open with Prayer Requests and Prayer

### Icebreaker: "A Voice You'll Never Forget"

Ask the group:

- Have you ever heard someone's voice that instantly grabbed your attention? What was the situation?
- How did you respond when you realized who was speaking?

*(Transition: In today's passage, John hears a voice that stops him in his tracks. What he sees next completely overwhelms him: a vision of the risen and glorified Jesus.)*

### Scripture Focus:

Read **Revelation 1:9-20** together as a group.

### Discussion Questions:

#### 1. John's Experience and Our Connection:

- How does John identify himself in verse 9, and why is that significant?
- John calls himself a "brother" and "partner in tribulation, the kingdom, and patient endurance." In what ways can you relate to those descriptions?
- How does knowing that John, an aged and faithful disciple, was still enduring for the sake of the gospel encourage you?

#### 2. The Vision of Jesus:

- What do you notice about the way Jesus is described in verses 12-16? Which aspect stands out to you the most? Why?
- How is this vision of Jesus different from how we often picture Him?
- The seven lampstands represent the churches, and Jesus is standing among them. How does this imagery of Jesus' presence among the churches encourage or challenge you personally?

#### 3. Responding to His Glory:

- How did John respond when he saw Jesus (verse 17)? How would you respond if you encountered Jesus in His full glory?
- Jesus tells John, "Fear not." Why is that significant considering the overwhelming nature of this vision?

- How does understanding that Jesus is “the first and the last” (verse 17) and the One who “holds the keys of Death and Hades” (verse 18) impact the way you view life’s challenges or fears?

#### **4. Jesus’ Presence and Our Mission:**

- Jesus instructed John to “write... what you have seen, those that are, and those that are to take place” (verse 19). What does this tell us about the importance of sharing what God reveals to us?
- How can you be more intentional in pointing others to Jesus’ power, presence, and glory this week?

#### **Suggested Application:**

##### **1. Personal Reflection:**

- Take time this week to meditate on the description of Jesus in verses 12-16. Ask yourself, *Do I truly live as if Jesus is this glorious and powerful?*

##### **2. Living Without Fear:**

- Identify a fear or burden you’ve been carrying. Surrender it to Jesus, who tells you, “Fear not,” and who holds ultimate authority over life and death.

##### **3. Shine as a Lampstand:**

- As the church is called to be a lampstand, consider one way you can shine the light of Christ in a dark place—whether in your home, workplace, or community.

##### **4. Encourage Someone:**

- Reach out to someone going through a difficult time. Share with them the truth that Jesus is present with His people and reigns in victory.

#### **Closing Prayer:**

Invite someone to close in prayer, thanking Jesus for revealing His glory and for being present with His church. Ask for hearts that fearlessly follow Him and shine His light in a dark world.

#### **Optional Worship Song Suggestion:**

“Behold Our God” – Reflect on the majesty and glory of King Jesus.