

# December Sunday School Discussion Questions

## *December 4 – Week 48 – Questions to Consider*

### **Fun Small Group Warm Up Question:**

When your family gets together to eat, what is your favorite dish?

### New Testament

2 John ~ 3 John ~ Jude ~ Revelation 1 ~ Revelation 2

1. What does it mean that truth “abides in us”? How can we tell if truth “abides in us” (2 John 1-2)?
2. Why would John address a church congregation as “dear lady”? Do we take our church as serious as we should? Why is commitment to a church family so important?
3. How does John define love in 2 John 6?
4. If someone adds a book or their opinion to the Bible (“the teaching of Christ”), what is the warning John gives (2 John 9)?
5. Who had caused you trouble in your life? How did you respond? How could you have responded better? Why did John want to encourage Gaius in his endurance in spite of the trouble caused by Diotrephes? How is Diotrephes described (3 John 9)?
6. Jude, brother of James and Jesus, emphasizes the importance of contending “for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints” (Jude 3). How do we have a similar calling today? How do false teachers continue to “pervert the grace of our God into sensuality” today (Jude 4)?
7. Why does Jude speak so clearly about God’s judgment and Hell in Jude 5-7. What is the danger of churches, pastors, and Christians who avoid reading, teaching, preaching, and believing in Hell?
8. What are some of Jude’s exhortations in the midst of “the last time” (Jude 18-20)?
9. Why is the book of Revelation so interesting to so many? Why can it be an extremely difficult and confusing book to understand? What are your feelings towards the book of Revelation?
10. Why does God give us Revelation according to the first 3 verses? Why did God give us over 300 prophecies about the coming of the Messiah?
11. While Revelation is full of future prophecy, it also has specific rebukes and encouragements to seven churches in chapter 2 & 3. Take the time to look at some of these churches. How does this apply or help teach or correct our churches today?
12. Consider watching this helpful 12 minute video by The Bible Project to introduce the book of Revelation: <https://youtu.be/5nvVVcYD-ow>

### General Discussion Questions

- What do these passages teach us about our enemies’ attacks (deceptions, distractions, discouragement, and temptations)? How can we better resist these attacks?
- *Application Questions:* How do you need to respond to and apply these truths to your life? (Is there a sin to avoid? A command to obey? An example to follow? A prayer to offer? A truth to remember or memorize? An attitude to change? A teaching to share?)

# December Sunday School Discussion Questions

## *December 11 – Week 49 – Questions to Consider*

### **Fun Small Group Warm Up Question:**

What is a unique or little-known fact about you?

### New Testament

Revelation 3 ~ Revelation 4 ~ Revelation 5 ~ Revelation 6 ~ Revelation 7

Revelation 2 and 3 gives very specific communication from God to particular churches. Consider some of the following churches and how it applies to our churches today in being faithful and prepared for Jesus' return:

1. Ephesus: Revelation 2:1-7 – Ephesus was strong with “works”, “toil”, “patient endurance”, and not putting up with “those who are evil” or false apostles. How would you describe the strengths of your church? Ephesus is simultaneously rebuked for having “abandoned the love you had at first.” Is there a previous strength of your church, now a weakness, that you can help improve?
2. Smyrna: Revelation 2:8-11 – Smyrna and Philadelphia are not rebuked/corrected for any apparent problems in the church. The church at Smyrna is being slandered and is about to face severe persecution of imprisonment and death, with the exhortation to “be faithful unto death and I will give you the crown of life.” Has your church family been slandered? What was that like to experience? How is God encouraging you to set your sights on your eternal reward in order to remain faithful to Him?
3. Pergamum: Revelation 2:12-17 – This church has faced both false teachings and persecution, but is faltering in resisting and discipling false teachers. What biblical subjects has your church struggled to preach faithfully? What false or bad teachings has your church struggled to confront or obey? What surrounding false teachings or influences might tempt your church in the future?
4. Thyatira: Revelation 2:18-28 – While Thyatira is praised on several issues, and rebuked severely for tolerating a false teacher, the faithful are encouraged to “hold fast what you have until I come.” How have you seen, or experienced yourself, the difficulty in staying faithful today? What temptations frequently pull people away from God, the Bible, and church? What has helped you to stay faithful to God?
5. Sardis: Revelation 3:1-6 – The church at Sardis has “the reputation of being alive” but is actually “dead.” The city itself was captured twice by watchmen falling asleep on duty. What lulls Christians and churches to spiritual sleep today? What helps Christians and churches to stay alert and attentive to their spiritual duties?
6. Philadelphia: Revelation 3:7-13 – The church at Philadelphia receives no rebukes or corrections but is praised for having “kept my word and have not denied my name.” What does this mean? Why is this a wonderful aim for every Christian? How can we similarly leave such a legacy in our church, family, and as a believer? What is the significance of the imagery of being made a “pillar in the temple of my God” with the inscription of the “name of my God” and the “name of the city of my God” written on it?
7. Laodicea: Revelation 3:14-22 – Nothing is praised in the church of Laodicea, as it has not fulfilled its purpose and God warns that “I will spit you out of my mouth.” Although they were self-confident and acted self-sufficient, God points out their

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failures and needs, calling them to “be zealous and repent.” Why is discipline from the Lord so hard to receive? What does a truly repentant child do? What does genuine repentance look like for believers? What does a zealous sports fan look like? What does a zealous Christian look like?

8. What amazes you about the description of God’s throne in Revelation 4? What is significant about what is said?
9. What stands out to you about the song sung to Jesus in Revelation 5:9-14? How is this a picture of pure worship? What is the key to true worship?
10. What is the “scroll” in the Bible and here in Revelation? Why is Jesus only worthy to open the “scroll” and “seals”?
11. The seals of God’s judgment and wrath are revealed in Revelation 6. How does this make you more grateful to God for His mercy, forgiveness, and grace? How does this make you more passionate about evangelism and missions?
12. Read Revelation 7:9-17. How does this make you long for Heaven? How is this description different than many peoples’ opinions about Heaven? Or popularized books about someone dying, going to Heaven, and coming back to talk about it? What is the singular focus of everyone in Heaven?

## **General Discussion Questions**

- What did you learn about humanity or yourself in the readings this week? About your identity, character or purpose as a Christ-follower?
- *Application Questions:* How do you need to respond to and apply these truths to your life? (Is there a sin to avoid? A command to obey? An example to follow? A prayer to offer? A truth to remember or memorize? An attitude to change? A teaching to share?)

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## *December 18 – Week 50 – Questions to Consider*

### **Fun Small Group Warm Up Question:**

What is your favorite Christmas carol?

### **New Testament**

Revelation 8 ~ Revelation 9 ~ Revelation 10 ~ Revelation 11 ~ Revelation 12

1. What do you struggle with when reading and studying Revelation? What do you enjoy and find helpful from your time in Revelation? Consider this overview video by the Bible Project as we go into the second half of Revelation:  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=QpnIrbq2bKo](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QpnIrbq2bKo)
2. How was the Exodus a foreshadowing of the first five trumpets in Revelation 8:6-9:12? Why does God give us such specific foreshadowing and prophecies about His wrath and judgement? How does this connect to 2 Peter 3:8-10 and 1 Timothy 2:3-4?
3. Did Pharaoh ever truly repent with the plagues of Egypt? How do the nations respond to God's wrath in Revelation 9:20-21? Why? What can we learn from their response?
4. What is the symbolism of eating the scroll in Ezekiel 3:1-4 & Revelation 10:9-11? How is that instructive to us? Just as the people refused to listen to Ezekiel and many of the Old Testament prophets and New Testament disciples, what sort of response might we encounter when we share the sweetness of God's Word?
5. Why do you think so many specific details are given about Heaven in Revelation? Why do you think so many specific prophecies were made about the Messiah's first coming?
6. Although much of Revelation could be interpreted literally, there is definitely a lot that can be interpreted symbolically. Who is the "temple" of God across the New Testament (1 Corinthians 3:16; 6:19-20, Hebrews 3:6, 1 Peter 2:4-5)? How does that matter for us today?
7. How are all Christians called to be "lampstands"? What is our mission?
8. Why do we need to understand about our enemies? Why is speculation or fascination with Satan and demonic dangerous? What do we know about Satan and his demons from the Bible? How do we see more of this in the end times prophecies within Revelation?
  - a. Names of Satan: [www.spiritualwarfare.blog/names-of-satan](http://www.spiritualwarfare.blog/names-of-satan)
  - b. Works of Satan: [www.spiritualwarfare.blog/works-of-satan](http://www.spiritualwarfare.blog/works-of-satan)
  - c. Character of Satan: [www.spiritualwarfare.blog/character-of-satan](http://www.spiritualwarfare.blog/character-of-satan)
  - d. Names of Demons: [www.spiritualwarfare.blog/names-of-demons](http://www.spiritualwarfare.blog/names-of-demons)
  - e. Works of Demons: [www.spiritualwarfare.blog/works-of-demons](http://www.spiritualwarfare.blog/works-of-demons)
  - f. Character of Demons: [www.spiritualwarfare.blog/character-of-demons](http://www.spiritualwarfare.blog/character-of-demons)
9. What stands out to you from Revelation 10? Compare this with Ezekiel 3:1-7. Why would the message be both sweet and bitter? How is that similar today?
10. What do we learn from the two witnesses of Revelation 11?

### **General Discussion Questions**

- What can you learn about God from these passages? His work? His character? How can this help you grow in your trust of Him?
- *Application Questions:* How do you need to respond to and apply these truths to your life? (Is there a sin to avoid? A command to obey? An example to follow? A prayer to offer? A truth to remember or memorize? An attitude to change? A teaching to share?)

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## *December 25 – Week 51 – Questions to Consider*

### **Fun Small Group Warm Up Question:**

What was a special Christmas gift you received?

### **New Testament**

Revelation 13 ~ Revelation 14 ~ Revelation 15 ~ Revelation 16 ~ Revelation 17

1. How does the truth of Ephesians 6:12 that “we don’t wrestle against flesh and blood” come to be clearly seen in our readings from Revelation? Do these descriptions intimidate you? Should they? How can these descriptions help us today? Where do we find victory? (Revelation 12:11)
2. In your lifetime, what “end times” references have you heard people imply connected with global events, natural occurrences, or natural disasters? Why do you think people try to make such connections? How can this be helpful? How can this be harmful?
3. Skim Daniel 7-12 as a comparison with Revelation 13. What similarities and differences do we see? What are the connections and cautions we have with our understanding of governments and government leaders? How can nations (like Babylon, Persia, Greece, and Rome in biblical days) function like these “beasts”?
4. What does “endurance and faith of the saints” look like in the midst of government persecution and evil? (Revelation 13:10) What other truths and commands can you think of in regard to our relationship with government as Christians? (see [www.trustworthyword.com/what-does-the-bible-say-about-voting-and-politics](http://www.trustworthyword.com/what-does-the-bible-say-about-voting-and-politics) )
5. Why do we see so much modern news about the mark of the Beast? How is this ultimately a sign of opposing devotion to God (i.e. the opposite of the Shema in Deuteronomy 6:4-8)?
6. When we read about our King of Kings in Revelation 14, how should we feel? In what ways should the world around us see the name of God already written on us, His followers? Why do you think believers (“the saints”) are described as those “who keep the commandments of God and their faith in Jesus”? (Revelation 14:12). What does it mean for us to “rest from our labors”? What does it mean that, for believers, “their deeds follow them”? (Revelation 14:13)? Since we are not saved by works, but by faith, what is the relationship between our faith and our works/obedience?
7. Why do you think God includes such detailed descriptions of His wrath? With the harvest of the lost in Revelation 14:17-20 and the bowls of God’s judgment in Revelation 15 & 16? How do you feel when you read these passages? How does it make you more grateful for God’s grace and mercy? How does it make you more passionate about sharing God’s love and truth with the lost?
8. Why does God’s wrath sometimes feel “unjust”? Should it? Why do you think the angel says, in the midst of God’s wrath: “Just are you, O Holy One, who is and who was, for you brought these judgments. For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, and you have given them blood to drink. It is what they deserve!” And I heard the altar saying, ‘Yes, Lord God the Almighty, true and just are your judgments!’” (Revelation 16:5–7)
9. We usually judge the seriousness of an offense to the seriousness of the harm to another. Why is sin so serious?
10. We usually assign punishment and discipline according to the seriousness of the offense. Why is sin punished so severely?

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11. How should this understanding make us more grateful for God's mercy in not giving us the punishment we deserve? How should this overwhelm us more in regard to God's grace in providing a way for us to be with Him eternally in Heaven?
12. How does reading a summary of this great battle in Revelation 17:14 encourage you? "They will make war on the Lamb, and the Lamb will conquer them, for he is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those with him are called and chosen and faithful." (Revelation 17:14). How does such a description change your perspective on your day-to-day difficulties?

## **General Discussion Questions**

- What was something new you noticed this week? What impacted you the most? Why?
- *Application Questions:* How do you need to respond to and apply these truths to your life? (Is there a sin to avoid? A command to obey? An example to follow? A prayer to offer? A truth to remember or memorize? An attitude to change? A teaching to share?)

# December Sunday School Discussion Questions

## *January 1 – Week 52 – Questions to Consider*

### **Fun Small Group Warm Up Question:**

What is your favorite Christmas activity or childhood memory?

### New Testament

Revelation 18 ~ Revelation 19 ~ Revelation 20 ~ Revelation 21 ~ Revelation 22

1. What modern day wars have caught your attention in your lifetime? What does it feel like to see enemy victories? What does it feel like to see allied/friendly victories? As you have read Revelation, how might you see this future battle playing out? What are the best ways we can prepare ourselves and the next generations for any such battles happening in their lifetimes?
2. What do you think life was like for Christians under Roman (“Babylon”) persecution? How do you think Romans treated their government and rulers as “gods”? Do we see people looking to modern day governments and political leaders as “gods” today? If so, how?
3. What does a balanced Christian perspective on governments look like? Why do you think the Lord allows evil governments to exist? Why do you think he allows evil governments to be overturned?
4. Fallen “Babylon” is described as a “dwelling place for demons” (Revelation 18:2). What do you think that means? Biblically speaking, what do demons do? How do think demons are actively working in our cultures and governments today?
5. As you read about the final battles in Revelation 19 & 20, what stood out to you? How did you feel in seeing the vindication of the martyr’s deaths? (Revelation 20:1-7). If you were in a situation where your life was threatened unless you disowned Jesus & Christianity, what struggles would you face? How hard would it be to see your loved ones (parents, spouse, kids, etc.) threatened or tortured for your faithfulness to Christ? How can we prepare now for the ongoing and increasing reality of Christians being persecuted? How do we stay faithful to God to the end?
6. What do you love about the description of Jesus in Revelation 19:11-16?
7. What is Jesus’ weapon in this final battle (Revelation 19:15)? How does that connect with Isaiah 11:4 “he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked” and 49:2 “He made my mouth like a sharp sword”? How is that our weapon already today? What does it look like practically to wield the “Sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God” (Ephesians 6:12)?
8. What is the coolest invitation you have ever received? What would be an amazing invitation you wish you received? Consider that Christians are “Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.” (Revelation 19:9). What does this feel like?
9. What connections do you see between Revelation 20 and Daniel 7?
10. How important is it to you to understanding whether Jesus comes before the millennium (1,000 year kingdom, premillennial), after the millennium (postmillennial), or whether the millennium is symbolic and has already begun (amillennial)? Do you have any views about the future rapture of believers in relation to the tribulation (pre-tribulation, post-tribulation rapture)? Should these differing views impact and change how we live our lives now?
11. How would you summarize the main point of Revelation in your own words?
12. Why is this such an important an encouraging reminder: “Salvation and glory and power belong to our God, for his judgments are true and just” (Revelation 19:1–2)?

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13. What gets you excited about New Jerusalem (Heaven) described in Revelation 21-22? What descriptions stood out to you? How is it similar to the Garden of Eden? How is it better?
14. If you were watching a movie, would you fast forward to the end to see how it finishes? If you might do this, in what cases would you do this? Why? Why do you think God gives us all of these details about how His story finishes? How did this give hope to the first century churches? How does this help us now?
15. Consider Isaiah 65:17 “For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth, and the former things shall not be remembered or come into mind.” and Revelation 21:5 “Behold, I am making all things new.” Why do you think God does this? How does this get you excited? Make you marvel at the greatness of God?
16. Sometimes people think of heaven more as a reunion with deceased loved ones than they do of being in the presence of God. Why is this so? How does Revelation 21:3 summarize the purpose and reality of Heaven? “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God.” Why is this so much more incredible than being with deceased loved ones? How amazing is it to you that God always keeps His promises?

## General Discussion Questions

- *Context Questions:* Who is writing this? Who is it being written to? When? Why? What type of writing is this? How does this matter to my understanding of the meaning of these chapters?
- *Application Questions:* How do you need to respond to and apply these truths to your life? (Is there a sin to avoid? A command to obey? An example to follow? A prayer to offer? A truth to remember or memorize? An attitude to change? A teaching to share?)