

# Life Group/Personal Study

Unleashing Truth in Revelation • Week of July 26

The apostle John was exiled on an island in the Aegean Sea. Notice the reason for his exile—

*“I, John, am your brother and your partner in suffering and in God’s Kingdom and in the patient endurance to which Jesus calls us. I was exiled to the island of Patmos for preaching the word of God and for my testimony about Jesus” (Revelation 1:9).*

John’s preaching and testimony about Jesus got him exiled. Yet, John was bold after personally witnessing the power of the risen Savior (see 1 John 1:1). In Revelation 1:11, the apostle John hears a voice instructing him to write everything he sees and send it to the churches in Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea. John turns to see ‘someone like the Son of Man’ standing in the midst of seven golden lampstands, holding seven stars in his right hand. There is a sharp two-edged sword that comes from His mouth, and His face is like the sun in all its brilliance (Revelation 1:16).

From the beginning, God speaks and God acts in glorious, uncontested love over His Creation. One day God’s Christ will ultimately defeat His enemies with a word (see Revelation 19:15); and even now, Christ holds all creation together (Colossians 1:17) as He ‘sustains everything by the mighty power of his command (Hebrews 1:3). It is no wonder that John describes a ‘sharp two-edged sword’ in the mouth of the Son of God. Remember what Jesus told the disciples after His resurrection? “I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth” (Matthew 28:18). All of heaven acknowledges the power and authority of Christ alone.

## Read Revelation 14:1-13

“This means that God’s holy people must endure persecution patiently, obeying his commands and maintaining their faith in Jesus” (v12). Dear Christ-follower, your word – your personal testimony – is also powerful! Are you prepared to share your story, your history with God?

1. “And I heard a voice from heaven saying, ‘Write this down...’ Take some time to think about your story and write down your testimony this week (or today). Read it aloud, so your own ears can hear it. Share it with your family. Your spouse or your children may not have ever heard your story, your history with God. Jot down a general outline in the space below. Perhaps begin by reflecting how the Lord has been faithful in your life—

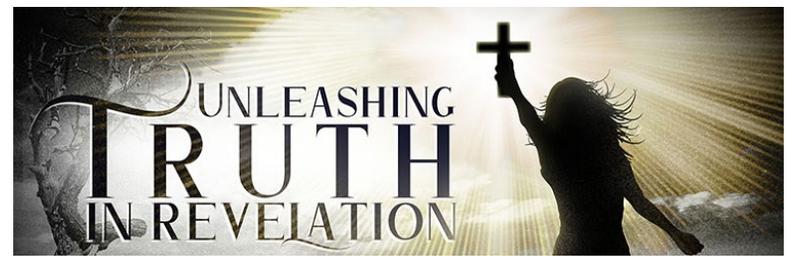
A few years ago, a lady once said that although she saw her grandmother reading the Bible often, her grandmother never read the Bible to her as a little girl. As a result, she never knew the stories of the Bible until later as an adult. It is vital that we read God’s Word to our children and share the stories of Scripture with those around us. Similarly, telling others what Christ means to us is a wonderful way to simply plant a seed, by pointing them to Christ. There is no right or wrong testimony. Our story is personal and thus, should be authentic, like a beggar telling another beggar where they, too, can find the Bread of Life.

2. Notice what the voice from heaven instructed John to write:

*“...Blessed are those who die in the Lord from now on. Yes, says the Spirit, they are blessed indeed, for they will rest from their hard work; for their good deeds follow them!” (v13).*

Do you have a will, a legal document stating your final wishes? Our Teaching Team at CC is strongly encouraging worshipers to write out our personal testimonies and have our testimonies read publicly at each of our Celebration of Life services (whenever that day comes). The ‘word of our testimony’ will bring hope and redemption to those who hear it. Read John’s words in Revelation 12:11 –

*“And they have defeated him (the Accuser, the devil) by the blood of the Lamb and by their testimony”*



**Text: Revelation 12:11,  
I Chronicles 16:8-12, 23-25**

## **Plain Truth:**

Our testimony \_\_\_\_\_ the  
\_\_\_\_\_ and builds a \_\_\_\_\_  
legacy.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ your testimony.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ your testimony.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ someone to \_\_\_\_\_ their  
testimony.

The Plain Truth states: “Our testimony weakens the Enemy and builds a lasting legacy.” King David was not a perfect man, but he was a man after God’s own heart. Each time he went into battle, he encouraged himself (and others) by recalling God’s faithfulness in past battles. David composed psalm after psalm recounting the LORD’s victories over David and Israel. To ‘exult in the LORD, to magnify the LORD’ means recalling the Lord’s goodness and remembering He is bigger than any giant, He is stronger than the fiercest foe.

3. One way we can learn to focus on our mighty God, over our problems and troubles, is to state aloud the truth of what the Lord has *already* done for us. Read **1 Samuel 17:33-37** when David, the shepherd boy, explains to King Saul how he plans to confront Goliath. Notice in vv33-37 of this passage what David does: he states how the God has delivered him in the past. What can you learn from these verses?

How will you follow David’s example (of word and testimony) in your struggle today?

Our testimony is a powerful weapon against the Enemy. This week, ask someone to share with you their personal story (Perhaps in your Life Group, family, or a close friend) – simply ask, ‘When did Christ become real to you? Or ‘How has Jesus made a difference in your life?’ In this world filled with troubles, it is refreshing to hear how the Lord is with us in our troubles. Remember John was exiled for preaching the word of God and for his testimony about Jesus (Revelation 1:9). And the Revelation itself is the testimony of Jesus Christ (Revelation 1:2).

### **One Year Bible Readings**

**July 26:** 2 Chronicles 17:1-18:34, Romans 9:25-10:13, Psalm 20:1-9, Proverbs 20:2-3

**July 27:** 2 Chronicles 19:1-20:37, Romans 10:14-11:12, Psalm 21:1-13, Proverbs 20:4-6

**July 28:** 2 Chronicles 21:1-23:21, Romans 11:13-36, Psalm 22:1-18, Proverbs 20:7

**July 29:** 2 Chronicles 24:1-25:28, Romans 12:1-21, Psalm 22:19-31, Proverbs 20:8-10

**July 30:** 2 Chronicles 26:1-28:27, Romans 13:1-14, Psalm 23:1-6, Proverbs 20:11

**July 31:** 2 Chronicles 29:1-36, Romans 14:1-23, Psalm 24:1-10, Proverbs 20:12

**August 1:** 2 Chronicles 30:1-31:21, Romans 15:1-22, Psalm 25:1-15, Proverbs 20:13-15