

## Small Group Guide Sheet

### New Testament: Revelation

Here are some possible discussion avenues for your family group discussion.

1. **Check in** with your family to see how the day has gone. Have everyone share their highs and lows.
2. **One, Two, Three Times** – In listening skills, if a person tells you something and you don't pick up on it, they'll tell it to you a second time. John tells us something in his letter three times, so it must be pretty important! Look up the following verses: Revelation 1:8 (p. 995), Revelation 21:6 (p. 1008), Revelation 22:13 (p. 1009).
  - What do these verses all have in common? *Jesus says he is the Alpha and the Omega.*
  - Alpha and Omega are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet. If Jesus is comparing himself to the first and the last letters of an alphabet, what does that description say about him? *He's been the same savior from the beginning until the end of time.*
3. **Math in Revelation** – Numerology is an important feature of apocalyptic literature. Seven is considered a perfect number (It's a whole number). So six is short of perfection; six is a "bad" number. 12 is the number of disciples and the tribes of Israel, so that's a good number, too. Ten is considered a "full" and "complete" number. So, let's do some math!
  - Revelation 5:1 (p. 994) – How many seals are on the scroll? Is that good or bad?
  - Revelation 7:4-8 – 144,000 people are sealed; 12,000 from each of the 12 tribes of Israel. Using division, how does that number break down in terms of 12's and 10's? ( $12 \times 12 \times 10 \times 10 \times 10$ ) So if 12 is the full number of the tribes of Israel and 10 is a number of completeness, what does that convey about the number of people who are "sealed?" *It's a lot! It's an abundant number.*
  - Revelation 13:18 – The number of the "beast" is 666. The beasts represent the emperors of Rome. If the second beast's number is 666, what does that say about him in terms of numbers? *Six is a "bad" number, so if this emperor has three sixes, he must be pretty bad!*
  - It's believed the 666 emperor is Nero. If you assign a numeric value to each letter of the Hebrew alphabet, the value of "Nero Caesar" adds up to 666.