

RECAP

BIBLE READING

Revelation 4: 1-11 “The Throne Room”

Doorways

Heaven & Earth

1. WHAT'S WHAT AND WHAT'S NOT?

Throne

One on the throne

Precious stones

24 white-clad elders on thrones

Crowns

Thunder and lightning

Seven flaming torches

Seven spirits of God

A sea of glass

Four living beings

2. WHAT'S GOING ON?

Eternal Worship

Kingdom Control Room

3. WHAT ABOUT US?

SMALL GROUP ACTIVITIES

In a family, small group or community

These notes are to help you as a family, community or small group unpack the Sunday teaching. It's a bit unrealistic for a small group to do everything - **so feel free to be selective!**

OPENER

Describe one of the most awesome scenes you have ever witnessed. What feelings did it inspire in you?

POSSIBLE DISCUSSION TOPICS

When considering topics like the following, having a concordance and Bible dictionary available at least, and Bible Study aids for cross-referencing, are very helpful. Electronic versions are much easier to use and save space as the books are usually very large volumes! I'd encourage anyone who is following Jesus as a disciple to learn to use these aids when studying Scripture.

Heaven

The Biblical concept of heaven is complicated!

At its simplest "heaven" is a word used for:

1. The physical expanse over the earth, the location of the stars.
2. The dwelling place of God and source of the New Jerusalem (Rev 21) as well as being partially present with believers on earth.
3. A substitute for the name of God. i.e the Kingdom of God in Luke is called the Kingdom of Heaven in Matthew.

Discuss:

1. **What is heaven to you?**
2. **How biblical are our ideas of heaven?**

The Kingdom of God

Another complex Biblical concept, partially present in Jesus, but also future. At its simplest, it means the "Rule of God". Believers are all meant

to be "agents of the Kingdom" and to "seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things (referring to food, drink and clothing) will be added unto you." (Matthew 6.33)

Discuss:

How helpful, and in what ways, was the idea of this scene (Revelation 4) - The Throne Room of Heaven; a place of eternal worship of God - as being the "Control Room" of the Kingdom of God?

Worship

This is a scene of awesome worship – Elders and Living Beings falling before our Creator God and declaring His worth and honour.

Discuss:

1. **What was the justification for worship in Heaven in Rev 4?**
2. **What helps and hinders us in worship here on Planet Earth!?**

PRAYER, WORSHIP AND ACTION

1. Say the Lord's Prayer out loud together, giving special attention to the references to Heaven.

2. Take it in turns to pray short prayers of praise and worship, each beginning: "God, You are..." You can begin by saying "Almighty God, Lord God, Father God, Loving God, Creator God...or whatever way of addressing Him is consistent with what you want to say.

3. Personally focus on one setting this month (eg. home, work, leisure time, Sunday church, small group or community, ministry etc.) and keep praying "Let Your will be done on earth as it is in Heaven". If we all did this, believing that God will answer a prayer that He has given us to pray, what could the potential impact of this be!