



Ready or Not
Week 1
Life Group Discussion Questions

Getting Started

- **Have you ever avoided reading through Revelation? Why or why not?**

Digging Deeper

(Revelation 1:12-20)

- **What do you think about how John describes Jesus 2.0?**
- **What are your thoughts on the symbolism? (You can spend some time talking about each of these attributes of Jesus)**
 - **Golden sash= High Priest (Hebrews 4, a priest's job in the OT was to deal with sin. Can this influence our understanding of His death on the cross?)**
 - **Hair like wool= Righteousness, purity, holiness (Hebrews 1:9 says, "You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness..") Why is it important that we understand that Jesus is Holy (meaning set apart)?**
 - **Flame of fire eyes= Omniscience, he sees everything**
 - **Bronze feet= judgement and authority (Do you think people have a hard time accepting Jesus as a judge and authority)?**
 - **It's easy to say he's a great teacher. It's easy to like his ethics and how he treats the poor and marginalized, but what if that's not all that He is? He is the perfect judge whose authority is unmatched. Why is it easy to respect Jesus, but not give him the authority over our lives?**
 - **Voice= Commands attention**

"This was written to be an encouraging book" - Pastor Rick.

Before we jump into the next question I want to share something from a first century historian (Tacitus) for some historical insight. This quote is about how Nero treated Christians (historically ruled before Domitian).

"... they were covered with wild beasts' skins and torn to death by dogs; or they were fastened on crosses, and, when daylight failed were burned to serve as lamps by night. Nero had offered his gardens for spectacle, and gave an exhibition in his Circus, mixing with the crowd in the clothes of a charioteer, or mounted on his chariot. Hence, in

spite of a guilt which had earned the most exemplary punishment, there arose a sentiment of pity, due to the impression that they were being sacrifices not for the welfare of the state but to the ferocity of a single man.” (Quote pulled from *Can We Trust the Gospels* by Peter J. Williams, (pages 20-21).

- **If you feel led, maybe take some time to pray for Christians in countries that are facing persecution today. (China, North Korea, India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Yemen, Somalia, Sudan, Iran, Lybia, Saudi Arabia, Eritrea, and many other countries) (Found on website opendoors.org)**
- **Public faith meant certain death in first century Rome.**
 - **What can we learn from this?**
 - **We aren't facing persecution in that manner, but it's easy for Christians to hide their faith. Why?**
- **The Greek word for “Lord” in the New Testament is kurios.**
 - **In the New Testament Kurios is sometimes used to mean Yahweh (Acts 15, John 4, Philippians 2, Romans 10, Colossians 3)**
 - **Although kurios is used as “ruler, or sir” in other parts of the New Testament, do you think Christians refused to acknowledge any Roman authority as Lord because that word could be understood as calling someone God?**
- **“Because Jesus wins I win.” Pastor Rick**
 - **In Jn 11 Jesus says that he is the resurrection and the life. He says this before he raises Lazarus from the dead and publicly displays that he has power of death.**
 - **What are your thoughts on the biblical truth that death on earth is not the end?**
- **“Because Jesus wins I win.” - Pastor Rick**
 - **The Kingdom of God is going to triumph over the enemy.**
 - **How does this encourage our faith right now?**

Let's Get Practical!

- **Is there anyone in your life that does not trust in Jesus' finished work on the cross? Pray for them, and if the opportunity presents itself, share the good news of the Gospel with them.**
- **Jesus 2.0. Described in His glory and great detail in Revelation 1 is the same Jesus who laid down his life so that all those who believe in Him can be reconciled with the Father and sealed with the Holy Spirit. Take some time throughout your week just contemplating on who Jesus is, what he has done, and what he is going to do for his church.**

- Christians are not foreign to persecution. It was happening when Revelation was written, it's happened throughout the past 2000 thousand years, and it is happening right now. Take some time to pray for Christians all over the globe that are facing, and fleeing persecution.