

Sermon-Based Discussion Guide

Date 1/5/25 Aaron Brown

Watch the sermon at manheimbic.org/sermon.



BIBLE PASSAGES - Revelation 1:9-20

Revelation 1:9 I, John, your brother and companion in the suffering and kingdom and patient endurance that are ours in Jesus, was on the island of Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. **10** On the Lord's Day I was in the Spirit, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet, **11** which said: "Write on a scroll what you see and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea."

12 I turned around to see the voice that was speaking to me. And when I turned I saw seven golden lampstands, **13** and among the lampstands was someone like a son of man, dressed in a robe reaching down to his feet and with a golden sash around his chest. **14** The hair on his head was white like wool, as white as snow, and his eyes were like blazing fire. **15** His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of rushing waters. **16** In his right hand he held seven stars, and coming out of his mouth was a sharp, double-edged sword. His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance.

17 When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. Then he placed his right hand on me and said: "Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. **18** I am the Living One; I was dead, and now look, I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades.

19 "Write, therefore, what you have seen, what is now and what will take place later. **20** The mystery of the seven stars that you saw in my right hand and of the seven golden lampstands is this: The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches.

Other Passages: Rev. 2:1-7, 1 Tim. 1:3-7, 2 Tim. 4:1-5, Eph. 1:15-16, 1 Jn. 3:11, 1 Jn. 4:7-8, Rev. 22:1-5

Connect:

Get to know each other. Connect, warm up to each other, and take time to fellowship.

Care:

Carry each other's burdens. Share life's challenges and practice Soul Care. Pray together.

Challenge:

Take a minute and pray as a group for God to speak to you as we read these letters. What does he have for your group? For you individually? For MBIC?

1. What can distract you from who Jesus is? Aaron listed politics, economics, and pandemics, as things that take away our sense of control. What distracts you from who is truly in control?
2. Like the people in Ephesus, it's easy to compromise to what society deems ok. Where are your weak spots when it comes to the way society lives vs how God asks us to behave?
3. How do you determine truth? How do you combat the lies you encounter daily in the news, billboards, music, media, social media?
4. If someone followed you around for the day, would they say you have left your love of God? Or would they notice you have an active love of God? (Note-active does not mean perfect). What would be the actions and behaviors that would demonstrate you have a pure love of God or have left that love?
5. What do you need to remember, repent or return to?

Clarify:

Does anyone need clarity on something? Are there any big God questions you are wrestling with?

Celebrate:

Celebrate life's successes and God's provision. Worship God's presence. Time to brag about God.

KEY TAKEAWAYS