

Revelation 12 Pacing Template

	Announcements	2 min.
	Inductive Skill Training (video ; comments by leader)	6 min.
	Frame (see next page)	7 min.
	Leader prays for study, 2 people read passage aloud (one person reads vs.10-12). Share cultural background, give instruction for individual time.	5 min.
	Individual Study - Observations & Interpretation on Characters, Time, Place	5 min.
	Share in small groups	5 min.
	Share in large group	9 min.
	Structure Interpretation – share in small groups	6 min.
	Share in large group	8 min.
	Poem Interpretation – 2 people read aloud again	4 min.
	Share in small groups	5 min.
	Share in large group	8 min.
	Leader summarizes and poses application	5 min.
	Discuss application and pray in small groups	12 min.

Frame

- As the [video](#) said, Revelation has cosmic conflict. What stories of good and evil were you exposed to growing up? How did they influence you? (*Share in pairs, then in large group*)
- The original audience and their cultures had their own stories of good and evil. (*You could share the familiar hero-monster myth here.*) The past few chapters of Revelation have introduced the enemies of God’s people: the dragon, the beast, and the false prophet. They’re the real culprits behind the problems of the churches John is writing to. As Jesus unveils the cosmic conflict to John, here we see the center of it all. Revelation 12 starts a new section of the vision and pulls back the veil fully to reveal what’s really going on behind all the difficulties experienced by Jesus’ followers under Roman rule.

Pray

Read passage (potentially 2 people)

Give cultural background:

- Many ancient cultures had a well-known myth in which a hero grows up to slay a monster who had threatened him at birth. Roman emperors appropriated the story for themselves, often portraying themselves as Apollo, the son of Zeus, who killed the serpent Python.
- *Artist’s rendering of an ancient Near Eastern dragon* (When we think of a dragon, we’re thinking of something very different than the original audience would have had in mind. To them, drakon was more of a chaos monster, a multi-headed sea serpent associated with chaos and destruction.)
- dragon/serpent/accuser – see Genesis 3:1-4,14-15; Job 1:6-12
- the son who “will rule the nations with an iron scepter” – quoted from Psalm 2:9, a messianic psalm
- 1260 days (equaling 42 months, 3½ years, or half of 7) – a limited period of time corresponding to the period of persecution in Rev. 11:2 and 13:5 (see Daniel 7:25)
- wilderness – recalls God’s care for his people in the wilderness (See Exodus 14; 19:4)

Individual Study:

- How are all the different characters in Revelation 12 described, and how do they interact with each other?
- What do you notice about Time and Place?

Share in SGs

Discuss in LG

- How are all the different characters in Revelation 12 described, and how do they interact with each other?
 - Describe the atmosphere of this woman’s labor and delivery.
 - What motivates the dragon’s attacks?
- What do you notice about Time and Place?
 - How do heaven & earth relate?
 - How does time function?

Looking at the Structure:

- Throughout the book, considering John's structure helps us understand his meaning. Structure informs interpretation, especially where he tells his story non-sequentially.
- Divide the text into sections and give each one a title. (Our goal is to better understand the major scenes of this vision/story.)
- What do you observe about the overarching plot movements and patterns in this story?

Share in SGs

Discuss in LG

Interpreting the Poem:

- In several kinds of ancient literature (including Greek drama), poetry/song interprets action; it tells audience how they're supposed to think or feel.
- Let's zoom out and read the whole thing again. **Read aloud again (potentially 2 people)**
- How does this song/poem interpret or make sense of the story that surrounds it?
- Zoom further out: Where would John's original readers find themselves in this story? What does this poem tell the churches about how to live in the tensions they're facing?

Share in SGs

Share in LG

Summary

Responding to the Word (Application Questions)

1. How would recognizing the reality of spiritual warfare impact your prayer, attitudes, actions, and relationships? Select a seminar or visit a prayer room to invest in your ability to pray in the midst of spiritual warfare.
2. God's people triumph over our enemy through the blood of the Lamb and the word of our testimony. What hinders us from faithful witness? Bring your fears to God. Ask for his protection and provision for your community as you testify to the Lamb.
3. Our Christian family around the world is suffering under the onslaught of the enemy. Spend some time praying for the persecuted church – for courage under pressure and for God's protection and provision in the midst of suffering.
4. How can your community's testimony about Jesus work against the lies of the enemy? Text those you came with to Urbana and set up a time to talk and pray about using *Reveal* to invite your friends into God's family.