



LIFE GROUP NOTES

Studies in Revelation



Chapter 11 Two Witnesses and the seventh trumpet

Warm Up

What major events have you witnessed in your life time? How have they changed the world?

Background and context

These chapters rank near the top of the most puzzling ones in the Bible. Many people have tried to interpret them. They are part of the “second woe” declared by the angel and also part of the sixth trumpet.

What is John measuring? Is it the dimensions of a new temple (cf: Ezekiel 40, Zechariah 2) or throne room of God? Or could it be symbolic of God’s promise to be present with His people? By the time John wrote this book, the early church believed themselves to be God’s temple, with His presence with them every day via the Holy Spirit.

The two witnesses could be two prophesying believers in the future, or they could be symbols of the Old and New Testament believers, or Moses and Elijah. It could even be that John is revealing that the witness of the Church in the last days will be extremely powerful and will cause torment to unbelievers.

Thinking it through: Main discussion/activity



Read Ch 11-12. What are the surprising things in the passage? What is new? What don’t you really understand? This could be a time to discuss and share reflections and ideas on the passage or watch a Bible project type video that helps explain things.

1. Apart from measuring the size of the temple what else is John asked to do?
2. What do you think is the significance of v2? What could it mean? Are the numbers literal or symbolic?
3. What are the tasks of the two witnesses? What authority do they have?
4. Which Old Testament stories do the actions of the witnesses remind you of?
5. Do you think John is trying to tell us Moses and Elijah will return before Christ? Why?
6. What other ways could this passage be interpreted?
7. If the two witnesses are symbolic of the Church of God’s people, how will they “torment” people on earth?
8. What is the ultimate fate of the two witnesses? Does this give us hope?
9. **Read v11-14.** What does this look like or remind you of?
10. What happens when the seventh trumpet is sounded?
11. What will the new kingdom look like? Does this encourage you? Why?



Try to leave 15-20 mins to talk about prayer needs of the group and to pray.

We want to encourage the development of prayer, to help everyone grow in confidence in praying. There are many creative ways of praying together: writing prayers, using candles as a focus, reading prayers or praying for each other in pairs.