

THEME: Hear what the Spirit says to the churches!

MEMORY VERSE: Revelation 1:3

Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear, and who keep what is written in it, for the time is near.

SONGS: Click <u>here</u> for Sunday's worship set. Be sure to subscribe to our channel!

TEACHING PASSAGE: Revelation 8-9

See the **next page** for any additional resources, including any activities that can be done with young children.

Discussion Questions:

- 1. In chapter 7 there is a break before the seventh seal is opened to allow for the sealing and safety of God's servants. Now the seventh seal is opened what happens right after the seal is opened, and what do you think is the reason? (chapter 8:1)
- 2. In chapter 8:2-5, seven angels receive 7 trumpets. Before the trumpets are blown what is offered to God?
- 3. The first 4 trumpets are blown in chapter 8:6-12. What and how much of the 4 major areas of creation are affected? (Genesis 1:1-21) When the eagle appears what does he announce, and about whom? (chapter 8:13)
- 4. Chapter 9 opens with the fifth angel blowing the trumpet what is sent and for how long? (verses 1-5)
- 5. Now the sixth angel blows its trumpet, and a voice is heard from where and what does the voice release? (verses 13-19)
- 6. After being faced with all that has been done on the earth so far, why are verses 20-21 so discouraging for the remnant of mankind? What similarities do you see with our modern world in the reaction to calamities of today? (wars, earthquakes, fires, etc.)

Additional Resources

Teaching Passage: Revelation 8-9

8 When the Lamb opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour. ² Then I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and seven trumpets were given to them. ³ And another angel came and stood at the altar with a golden censer, and he was given much incense to offer with the prayers of all the saints on the golden altar before the throne, ⁴ and the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, rose before God from the hand of the angel. ⁵ Then the angel took the censer and filled it with fire from the altar and threw it on the earth, and there were peals of thunder, rumblings, flashes of lightning, and an earthquake.

⁶ Now the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared to blow them.

⁷ The first angel blew his trumpet, and there followed hail and fire, mixed with blood, and these were thrown upon the earth. And a third of the earth was burned up, and a third of the trees were burned up, and all green grass was burned up.

⁸ The second angel blew his trumpet, and something like a great mountain, burning with fire, was thrown into the sea, and a third of the sea became blood. ⁹ A third of the living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed.

¹⁰ The third angel blew his trumpet, and a great star fell from heaven, blazing like a torch, and it fell on a third of the rivers and on the springs of water. ¹¹ The name of the star is Wormwood. A third of the waters became wormwood, and many people died from the water, because it had been made bitter.

¹² The fourth angel blew his trumpet, and a third of the sun was struck, and a third of the moon, and a third of the stars, so that a third of their light might be darkened, and a third of the day might be kept from shining, and likewise a third of the night.

¹³ Then I looked, and I heard an eagle crying with a loud voice as it flew directly overhead, "Woe, woe, woe to those who dwell on the earth, at the blasts of the other trumpets that the three angels are about to blow!"

9 And the fifth angel blew his trumpet, and I saw a star fallen from heaven to earth, and he was given the key to the shaft of the bottomless pit. ² He opened the shaft of the bottomless pit, and from the shaft rose smoke like the smoke of a great furnace, and the sun and the air were darkened with the smoke from the shaft. ³ Then from the smoke came locusts on the earth, and they were given power like the power of scorpions of the earth. ⁴ They were told not to harm the grass of the earth or any green plant or any tree, but only those people who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads. ⁵ They were allowed to torment them for five months, but not to kill them, and their torment was like the torment of a scorpion when it stings someone. ⁶ And in those days people will seek death and will not find it. They will long to die, but death will flee from them.

⁷ In appearance the locusts were like horses prepared for battle: on their heads were what looked like crowns of gold; their faces were like human faces, ⁸ their hair like women's hair, and their teeth like lions' teeth; ⁹ they had breastplates like breastplates of iron, and the noise of their wings was like the noise of many chariots with horses rushing into battle. ¹⁰ They have tails and stings like scorpions, and their power to hurt people for five months is in their tails. ¹¹ They have as king over them the angel of the bottomless pit. His name in Hebrew is Abaddon, and in Greek he is called Apollyon.

¹² The first woe has passed; behold, two woes are still to come.

¹³ Then the sixth angel blew his trumpet, and I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar before God, ¹⁴ saying to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, "Release

the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates." ¹⁵ So the four angels, who had been prepared for the hour, the day, the month, and the year, were released to kill a third of mankind. ¹⁶ The number of mounted troops was twice ten thousand times ten thousand; I heard their number. ¹⁷ And this is how I saw the horses in my vision and those who rode them: they wore breastplates the color of fire and of sapphire and of sulfur, and the heads of the horses were like lions' heads, and fire and smoke and sulfur came out of their mouths. ¹⁸ By these three plagues a third of mankind was killed, by the fire and smoke and sulfur coming out of their mouths. ¹⁹ For the power of the horses is in their mouths and in their tails, for their tails are like serpents with heads, and by means of them they wound.

²⁰ The rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands nor give up worshiping demons and idols of gold and silver and bronze and stone and wood, which cannot see or hear or walk, ²¹ nor did they repent of their murders or their sorceries or their sexual immorality or their thefts.

For young children:

Activity: Have you ever played the quiet game? My family plays it during car rides sometimes. Whoever breaks the silence loses. Can you try playing the quiet game right now? The rules are you can't read anything, play anything or watch anything, just remain quiet? How long do you think you can stay silent? When you are done playing, discuss if it felt longer or shorter than it really was. Briefly, what did you think about?

Let's review in chapter 7. What were the promises for those whom God has sealed and are standing before the throne (verses 7:15-17)? If all the servants of God (believers) are standing before the throne, who is left on the earth?

Ask: How many angels are standing before God in verse 2? How many trumpets?

Say: In the Old Testament trumpets were used to give signals during war, and to warn people of something that was coming. In Joshua 6, 7 trumpets were sounded to announce defeat of Jericho. Why are the angels sounding the trumpets in Revelation 8 ad 9?

Ask: Why do you think there was silence in Heaven for a half hour? What is about to happen?

Ask: Whose prayers are being presented to God with incense?

A quote from <u>www.gotquestions.org</u> regarding the prayers of the saints, "The saints are all believers in Jesus, living or dead, saved by grace through faith. The church is "loved by God and called to be saints" (Romans 1:7, ESV), and, when we pray, it's as if a golden bowl of incense is being carried to the very throne of God in heaven."

Look closely at verses 9:20, 21.

Ask: What is the response of the people remaining after the destruction following the 6th trumpet? Does their response surprise you? Why or why not?

Take time to pray together and envision your prayers rising up to God on the throne like a bowl of incense.

