

Community group questions
Revelation 18

Opening question: Of the things you own, what three would be the hardest for you to go without for a year?

Scripture study

- Read Revelation 18:1-3. What news does the angel deliver? Compare the language here with what we saw in chapter 17:1-5. Compare also with 14:8 & 16:17-19. What is added to the picture here of Babylon that we don't see in those other tours through the judgments?
- Read 18:4-8. What stands out to you about the punishment? How do you see a false sense of security in these verses? What is the warning to the people of God? How do we live out that call to "come out of her"? How do we live in the tension of being in the world, but not of it?
- Read 18:9-19. What are the three groups who are lamenting and what is the cause of their sorrow? How are the laments similar? What is seen in these laments about the nature of their sorrow and the unpredictability of life? How do we cultivate a healthy perspective on stuff?
- Read 18:21-24. What other detail is given here about the consequences of Babylon's fall? What strikes you about these verses?
- Application: Read 18:20. What is the cause for rejoicing? How does rejoicing in the things of God compare to rejoicing in the stuff? How is rejoicing in the things of God an antidote to sorrowing over loss of things? What can help us fight against materialism? See First Timothy 6:17-19 for more insight on the right perspective.