

## News Story Summary

The word “revelation” generally carries a negative impression. When Googling the phrase “amid revelations of,” the top hits on July 7, 2015 were: the forced resignation of a government administrator who used taxpayer money for a weekend at a Las Vegas resort; a British newspaper executive who resigned over a phone-hacking scandal; continued allegations of mismanagement of Veteran’s Affairs hospitals (specifically in Maine); and allegations of animal cruelty in legalized greyhound racing.

(Try this experiment yourself the day before you teach this session. Google the phrase “amid revelations of” (make sure you put it in quotes) and see what happens).

## Focus Attention

Before the group arrives, write the word REVELATION in large, all-capital letters on a dry erase board. Direct group members to share any thoughts or feelings that come to mind when they hear or see that word. Share the findings of the Google search.

Ask: What makes a revelation negative or positive? How is the word ‘revelation’ used when you aren’t talking about the last book of the Bible? Would you consider the Book of Revelation negative or positive?

Suggest that very few other books of the Bible cause such varied emotional reactions. Some people are scared of Revelation. Some are confused. Some avoid studying the book altogether. Others are excited, looking for the opportunity to debate.

Explain that the book of Revelation is the revelation of Jesus to John. And since it’s the revelation of Jesus, let’s review what we’ve already learned about Jesus from the letters of John:

- God is light, and there is absolutely no darkness in Him (Session 2; 1 John 1:5)
- The One who is in you [Jesus] is greater than the one who is in the world (Session 4; 1 John 4:4)
- There is no fear in love, because perfect love drives out fear (Session 5; 1 John 4:18)

Encourage the group to look for how Jesus identified Himself (revealed) to John in the introduction to Revelation.

## **Challenge**

Remind the group of the Google results. Lead them to create a search heading that would accurately describe truths discovered in Revelation 1:1-7.

Emphasize that since this is Jesus' revelation, there will be nothing scandalous, since there is no darkness in God. Remind them that Revelation is a book of hope for believers, because Jesus Christ is the complete revelation of God to the entire world.