

# THE FORCE AWAKENS

## AN APOCALYPTIC ADVENT / Part 3

### THE NIGHTMARE BEFORE CHRISTMAS

Pastor Matt Jones, Del Rey Church (Revelation 12:7-12 & Matthew 1-2)

#### ① Esoteric Signs

#### ② Earthly Satan

#### ③ Encountering Struggles

#### ④ Eternal Son

#### ⑤ Evil's Sorrow

#### ⑥ Everlasting Salvation

## COMMUNITY GROUP QUESTIONS

*Reflective Questions for You and Your Small Group*

1. On Sunday we continued our study Revelation 12 as a part of our 2018 Advent. In the verses we studied (vv.7-12), we looked at a cosmic battle between holy angels and fallen ones (demons). How often do you think about this ongoing battle in our world and how it impacts your life, family, relationships, work, our city, our nation and our church?
2. In Revelation 12, we looked at the red dragon, who is Satan (his name means adversary), a very powerful fallen angel of great intelligence. How does the reality of this strong being and his angelic army having a united front against God's people inform the way we engage in spiritual warfare? What does it look like—practically speaking in your life—to battle the darkness as disciples of Jesus? Try to incorporate these verses into your answers: James 4:7, Psalm 119:11, Jude 9, and Ephesians 6:10–18.
3. In Revelation 12:9 we read this line about Satan that he “deceives the whole world.” Look up what Scripture says about Satan's deception of the world in 2 Corinthians 4:4 and discuss together some of the ideas he uses to deceive people in our culture from believing the truth about the triune God of the Bible and the gospel. Personally speaking, before you were a Christian, what deceptions were you under concerning God, the Bible and the gospel? How did God open your eyes? More recently in your life, what sorts of lies has the enemy led you to believe that created problems for you and how has the Lord used His word and church to rescue you? Closer to home, how has the enemy attacked those you love with lies?
4. With Christmas season upon us, do you have any stresses or anxieties you are carrying about holiday family stuff or work? How is your extended family doing and how are you being a witness to them? Are you able to share the gospel at work? How can we be praying for your witness and the things you are facing this month?