



Sermon Discussion Curriculum

Week 2 – Revelation 2:1-7 – Jan. 10, 2021

Helpful Resources for Studying Revelation

Revelation for You by Tim Chester – <https://bit.ly/RevForYou>

The BibleProject Videos – Rev. 1-11: <https://bit.ly/Rev1-11> Rev. 12-22: <https://bit.ly/Rev12-22>

Revelation: The Triumph of God – <https://bit.ly/TriumphOfGod>

Revelation: by William Subash – *RightNow Media* – <https://bit.ly/williamsbush>

Admittedly, Revelation can be an intimidating book to study. As you begin this endeavor, allow God to speak to you through his written Word.

The goal of this time is to have quality connection and time together. Choose questions from Know, Grow and Show that will best help your group discuss the passage and take their next steps of faith. Don't feel like you have to use all of the questions. Feel free to add your own too! We are praying for you as you lead your D-Group this week!



KNOW:

- There is something special about feeling known by others. Share about a time when you felt particularly known and loved by someone through their words, actions, or through a gift they gave you.
- We all grow best in community with others. Who are the people in your life who help you see when you are getting off track? How do you respond to their “constructive criticism”?
- Are there times in your life where you feel as though you are doing everything you can, yet it doesn't seem to ever be enough? Maybe it's your job or a relationship. If you are willing, share an example with your group.
- Think about the quote “Delight shapes desire” (coming from Psalm 37:4). How does this affect the trajectory of your spiritual life (positively and negatively) and how can you intentionally use this concept to strengthen your desire for God?



GROW:

- Read Revelation 2:1-7 aloud in your group. According to this passage, what are the things that the church at Ephesus is doing well? What are they not doing well? What is the change that Jesus is calling them to make?
- Why would forsaking “your first love” be so tragic for this church?
- The church body in Ephesus was comprised of former witches, sorcerers, and pagan god worshippers. After their conversion, they placed a high value on right doctrine and teaching, and tested apostles to identify false teachers. However, Jesus rebukes them because their love for truth began to supersede their love for God. What is the danger in this?
- In verse 5, Jesus says that if they do not “repent and do the works” they did before, he will “remove your lampstand from its place”. The lampstand represents the credibility and authority of the Ephesian church as a witness to the world. How would their lack of repentance result in losing their ability to be a credible witness?
- Look back at Paul’s letter to the Ephesians (Eph. 1:15-23). We see echoes of the same strengths and weaknesses that John is writing about in Rev. 2. What did Paul want for the Ephesians? What phrases from this passage do you need to remind your own heart of this week? Write them down and think on them this week.



SHOW:

- Imagine that you are this church, hearing John communicate these things to you. How do you think you would have felt? How do you think you would have responded?
- The church at Ephesus is told to “remember” in verse 5. How does remembering what God has done in our lives strengthen our heart and faith? Think back over the past weeks and months – what is something you can remember that God has done that you would be willing to share with your group?
- There is a tendency for most of us to lose the initial enthusiasm and excitement we had when we first came to know Christ. If we have lost our first love, what steps can we take to renew our commitment to Jesus?
- Examine your own life. Is there anything in your life (habits, priorities, pride, etc.) that could be damaging your witness to others, or worse, damaging your relationship with God and quenching your love for him? Confess those to God and ask for a new, fresh love for him.
- Spend time in prayer as a group, repenting of the ways in which you have lost your first love or allowed the distractions of the world to pull you away from your commitment to Jesus. Ask God to strengthen and encourage your group to be the kind of Biblical community that helps one another grow in their love for Jesus and desire to follow Him wholeheartedly.