

Community Group Discussion Guide

Week of January 16 - January 22, 2022

Vision 2022

A Community Persevering In The Gospel

Revelation 2:1-7

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

When did you first experience your love for God? How did you respond? What changed in your life?

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time, caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

SUMMARY:

In Revelation 2:1-7 we see why it is important that a community persevering in the gospel is a community compelled by, controlled by and consumed and captivated by the love of Christ. Growing old in the faith but not cold in love.

MAIN POINTS:

1. Jesus COMMENDS the church
2. Jesus COUNSELS the church
3. Jesus CAUTIONS the church
4. Jesus COMFORTS the church

DIGGING DEEPER

1. **Read Revelation 2:2-3 aloud.** In these verses, Jesus **commends** the church of Ephesus.
 - a. Discuss, in terms of their meaning, these qualities for which He is commending the church of Ephesus:
 - i. Your toil.
 - ii. You cannot bear with those who are evil.
 - iii. Tested those who call themselves apostles and are not, and found them to be false.
 - iv. Enduring patiently.
 - v. Bearing up for My Name's sake.
 - vi. Not growing weary.

- b. If you consider these qualities to be commendable, do you practice them?
 - c. Are these qualities being practiced at our church? Discuss and give examples.
- 2. **Read Revelation 2:4 aloud.** Jesus now **counsels** the church in Ephesus on what they lack: they have abandoned the love (they) had at first.
 - a. How do you interpret this? What was the love they had abandoned ?
 - b. **Read 1 Corinthians 13:1-3 aloud.** Do these verses coincide with what Jesus is saying to the church of Ephesus? In what way? Draw parallels with these verses and Revelation 2:2-4. Is the church's motivation being questioned? In what way?
 - c. What application can we derive from the counseling from Jesus in Revelation 2:4?
- 3. **Read Revelation 2:5 aloud.** In this verse, Jesus **cautions** the church in Ephesus.
 - a. Is Jesus also cautioning us? How should we respond?
 - b. What does it mean to "Remember...from where you have fallen"?
 - c. What does it mean to "...repent and do the works you did at first"?
 - d. Are these actions - Remember, Repent, and Respond something we need to do in our lives? If yes, how do we proceed to do these things?
 - e. How do we apply the lessons learned in these passages?
- 4. **Read Revelation 2:6-7 aloud.** In these verses, Jesus **comforts** the church in Ephesus. Describe the comfort He gives them. In what way do they need to respond?
- 5. If, after reading Revelation 2:1-7, do you believe that Jesus is speaking only to the church in Ephesus? Is He also asking us to examine our motives?
 - a. How will you apply what you have read in these verses?
 - b. Consider this: If your works are driven by personal gratification rather than your love for God, are they of value to the church or to God? Do we need to change our focus? In what way?

TAKING IT HOME

Looking back at this week's study, what is important for you to remember and why?

PRAISE & PRAYER REQUESTS

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