

Revelation Part Three: Ephesus, all out of love

Journey Group Discussion Guide

Revelation 2:1-7

Monty Wright

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This guide is to help your group integrate deeper discussion of the weekend message at SVA. The goal is to form spiritually as an individual and a group which leads to mission in your neighborhoods.

RELEASE...

Last week we focused on John's incredible vision of Jesus. How has the descriptions of who Jesus is and the realization of His character revealed in the images helped you stay better connected to Him this past week? Take about 2 minutes of silence as a group to think back over the last week to notice the moments God was most real to you and the moments He seemed to be forgotten, then share those insights as a group.

REFLECT...

Start by reading Revelation 2:1-7 and Acts 20:17-37

- What do you notice about the two passages that intrigues you?
- How does the truth that Jesus knows everything about you make you feel?
- Brennan Manning has noted that the hardest things for Christians is often accepting our acceptance...Do you have a hard time receiving God's love, acceptance and grace in light of what you are currently struggling with, or things you have done?
- List the positive traits about the church at Ephesus?
- Which positive traits do you share?
- How did those positive traits feed the fatal flaw of the Ephesian church?
- Do you sense you or your group has the Ephesian flaw?
- What does it mean to "overcome"? How does Christ help?

RESPOND...

- Why do many Christians become grace-less?
- What practices can you enact this week to balance Grace and Truth with love?
- What do you need to stop doing as a result of this message?
- How can your group keep love as a context for mission?
- Who should you invite to your Journey Group next week?

Prayer Points...

- Pray for our church... that we would grow in our spiritual depth and in numbers.
- Pray for our Journey Group...that we would reach out and include our neighbors.
- Pray for our community, that God would draw people to Himself through us.
- Pray for those who are stuck in "legalism and rules".
- Pray for opportunities to show "love" wherever you go.

Remember, don't take the mark of the beast...as followers of the Rabbi, Jesus, we only worship the one True God no matter what our culture does. When the pressure is on, Jesus holds us and walks with us...we are never alone.

~Pastor Monty