



A Worship Discussion Guide for Individuals, Groups & Families for the week of February 2, 2025

Read the Bible passage aloud in your group meeting. This is a worship discussion guide, and our reflections and applications are grounded in Scripture. You do not need to work through the whole guide. Decide which points would be most helpful for your meeting, and use them as a starting point for your time together.

Warm Up *The Letter to the Church at Pergamum*

- Jesus knows us and He walks among His people. How is Jesus with you in the challenges and joys of this week? How is He reminding you of the truth?

Each of the seven letters to the seven churches of Asia Minor (Revelation 2-3) will follow a similar pattern:

- Jesus addresses each particular church through her resident **messenger** [angelos]
- Jesus **reveals Himself** by one of the names or images found elsewhere in John's vision (typically, from Revelation 1)
- Jesus **reflects back His work** in the church
- Jesus calls the church to **repent** [metanoeo] and **listen**
- Jesus **renews hope** and **affirms a future** for the church using titles and images found in the final chapters of Revelation
- The ancient city of Pergamum was located in Asia Minor (modern day Turkey), the northernmost location of the seven churches of Revelation; about 55 miles north of the church of Smyrna and 15 miles east of the Aegean Sea.
- Pergamum was a large and major cultural center of the Greek World, described by 1st century philosopher Pliny the Elder as "the most famous and magnificent city of the Asia Minor".
- Architecture was dominated by a large Acropolis modeled after the Acropolis of Athens with a massive temple to Zeus, an arts Theater that could seat 10,000 and one of the largest Libraries in the world at the time, with nearly 200,000 manuscripts.
- The "City of Firsts", Pergamum is known for its invention of Parchment (the word "parchment" shares the same etymological root as Pergamum), as well as the location of the first theater with a wooden stage, first trade union, first public building regulation, first strike and collective bargaining agreement, among others.

Revelation 2:12-17 *Hold Fast*

¹²"And to the angel of the church in Pergamum write:
'The words of him who has the sharp two-edged sword.

- How does Jesus introduce Himself to the church at Pergamum? Why is this significant? Read the verse below from Ephesians for more insight.

*"...and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God."
--Ephesians 6:17*

¹³"I know where you dwell, where Satan's throne is. Yet you hold fast my name, and you did not deny my faith even in the days of Antipas my faithful witness, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells. ¹⁴But I have a

few things against you: you have some there who hold the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the sons of Israel, so that they might eat food sacrificed to idols and practice sexual immorality. ¹⁵So also you have some who hold the teaching of the Nicolaitans. ¹⁶Therefore repent. If not, I will come to you soon and war against them with the sword of my mouth. ¹⁷He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who conquers I will give some of the hidden manna, and I will give him a white stone, with a new name written on the stone that no one knows except the one who receives it.'

- What "truths" are reflected in this passage?

- Jesus reflects back to Pergamum the ways they are like Him. In what ways does this church reflect the glory of Christ? (13)
- Jesus “knows where you live” (13). Does this feel like a comfort or burden to you? Why?
- How does Jesus call the church at Pergamum to repent (14-16)? Read the summary of the account of Balaam below for more insight.

Balaam ([Numbers 22-24](#)) was called by King Balak of Moab to curse the tribes of Israel who were to cross the Jordan River into the Promised Land. But every time he opened his mouth, the words God gave him to speak were a blessing, not a curse. So, motivated by greed Balaam suggested to Balak that Moabite girls should seduce Israelite men by inviting them to idolatrous and immoral feast.

- What must you believe to repent of thinking that grace is an invitation to sin?

- How does Jesus renew hope for this church? (17)
- What is “the hidden manna”? (17)
- What is the significance of the “white stone”? (17)
- Why is the new name hidden?
- Pray together in response to God’s Word.

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Questions? Contact Pastor Kevin Greene, kevin@wepc.org

