



A Worship Discussion Guide for Individuals, Groups & Families for the week of February 9, 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 Thyatira*

- Think about your spiritual life. Are you growing in faith and holiness, moving backward, standing still? How would you know?

Business is Booming. Ancient *Thyatira* (modern day Akhisar, Turkey) had a population estimate of 80,000 (about the same size as Lynchburg, VA). A smaller, inland, less politically significant city than Ephesus, Smyrna, and Pergamum. *Thyatira* had commercial success and was governed by numerous trade guilds and business associations. Archaeology and ancient sources document guilds for woolworkers, linen workers, garment production, dyers, tanners, leather smiths, potters, bakers, slave dealers, and bronzesmiths. *Thyatira* was a prosperous city that was organized to do business.

The Spiritual Cost of Doing Business. It is notable that you basically needed to be a member in good standing of guilds and associations to do business in *Thyatira*. Guilds had religious associations (i.e. Apollo, Artemis), and guild members were obligated to attend religious festivals, pagan worship rites, and engaged in sexual promiscuity to ensure success in the business community. What do you think would happen to a Christian who refused compliance with trade union practices?

Lydia, Follower of Jesus & Businesswoman. The church at Philippi was founded by a small group that included Lydia, a businesswoman from *Thyatira* ([Acts 16:13-15](#)). She had emigrated to Philippi in Macedonia (a colony of *Thyatira*). She traded in goods treated with *Thyatira*'s famous purple dye, heard Paul preach the Gospel, was converted and baptized, and began to host the new church in Philippi. What role might Lydia have had in the planting of the church in *Thyatira*?

Revelation 2:18-29 *Until I Come*

¹⁸“And to the angel of the church in *Thyatira* write: ‘The words of the Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and whose feet are like burnished bronze.

¹⁹“I know your works, your love and faith and service and patient endurance, and that your latter works exceed the first. ²⁰But I have this against you, that you tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess and is teaching and seducing my servants to practice sexual immorality and to eat food sacrificed to idols. ²¹I gave her time to repent, but she refuses to repent of her sexual immorality. ²²Behold, I will throw her onto a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her I will throw into great tribulation, unless they repent of her works, ²³and I will strike her children dead. And all the churches will know that I am he who searches mind and heart, and I will give to each of you according to your works. ²⁴But to the rest of you in *Thyatira*, who do not hold this teaching, who have not learned what some call the deep things of Satan, to you I say, I do not lay on you any other burden. ²⁵Only hold fast what you have until I come. ²⁶The one who conquers and who

keeps my works until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations, ²⁷and he will rule them with a rod of iron, as when earthen pots are broken in pieces, even as I myself have received authority from my Father. ²⁸And I will give him the morning star. ²⁹He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.’

- How does Jesus introduce Himself to the church in *Thyatira* in verses 18 & 23? Why is this significant? Read the verses below from Revelation 1 and Daniel 10 for more insight.

“His eyes were like a flame of fire, his feet were like burnished bronze, refined in a furnace, and his voice was like the roar of many waters.”
--Revelation 1:14-15

“His face like the appearance of lightning, his eyes like flaming torches, his arms and legs like the gleam of burnished bronze, and the sound of his words like the sound of a multitude.” --Daniel 10:6

- Jesus reflects back to Thyatira the ways they are like Him. In what ways does this church reflect the glory of Christ? Especially focus on verses 19 and 24-25.
- Once again, what is repentance? What might you mistake for repentance?
- How does Jesus call the church at Thyatira to repent (20-23)? Read the summary of the account of Jezebel recorded in I Kings below for more insight.

Jezebel was the wife of King Ahab. Jezebel urged Ahab to worship the pagan god, Baal and the goddess Asherah ([I Kings 16:31-33, 18:4; 19:1-2; 21:25](#)).

The "Jezebel" of Thyatira was likely a woman who held influence in the church, but her teaching was deceptive, encouraging the church to engage in pagan rituals alongside the worship of Christ. Under the guise of religion, she encouraged sexual immorality and the eating of food sacrificed to idols.

Sexual immorality here is not ultimately about sexual urges, but about friendship and partnership with the world, the flesh and the devil.

- Jesus knows we are tempted to make false alliances with functional "saviors" just like the people of Jezebel's day. What must we believe to repent of idolatry and split allegiances?

"Elijah came near to all the people and said, 'How long will you go limping between two different opinions? If the LORD is God, follow him; but if Baal, then follow him.' And the people did not answer him a word." --I Kings 18:21

*"Teach me your way, O LORD, that I may walk in your truth; unite my heart to fear your name."
--Psalm 86:11*

- How does Jesus renew hope for this church (26-29)? Read the verses below from Psalm 2, Matthew 28, Numbers 24, and Revelation 22 for more insight.

*"The LORD said to me, 'You are my Son; today I have begotten you.
Ask of me, and I will make **the nations** your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession.
You shall **break them with a rod of iron** and dash them in **pieces like a potter's vessel.**"
--Psalm 2:7-9*

*"And Jesus came and said to them, '**All authority** in heaven and on earth has been given to me. **Go therefore** and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."
--Matthew 28:18-20*

*"A **star** shall come out of Jacob, and a **scepter** shall rise out of Israel; it shall **crush** the forehead of Moab and **break** down all the sons of Sheth."
--Numbers 24:17*

*"I, Jesus, have sent my angel to testify to you about these things for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright **morning star**."
--Revelation 22:16*

- Do you think holiness (living a life that pleases God) is possible? Why or why not?
- Spiritual transformation in the Bible is described as an infant growing into maturity, a fruitful vine, and even the chemical process employed for refining metals. Think about your spiritual life. Are you growing in faith and holiness, moving backward, standing still? How would you know?
- Pray together in response to God's Word.

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