



A Worship Discussion Guide for Individuals, Groups & Families for the week of March 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 Laodicea*

When you were first introduced to Jesus Christ, what impression did you have of Him? How has that changed since that time?

- Laodicea was the most southernly of the seven churches of Revelation 2-3, about 40 miles southeast of Philadelphia, one of the tri-cities of the River Lycus along with Hierapolis and Colossae. The city was wealthy, but it appears the church was not.
- Their neighboring towns were known for Hot Springs (Hierapolis) and Cold Springs (Colossae), the relevance of

which to the metaphor in this passage is the subject of some debate.

- The City of Laodicea was the site of a major crossroads and trade route, resulting in the city becoming one of the richest in the area by the 1st century BC.
- Similar to other cities we have discussed, the city was all but destroyed in the 1st century AD by an earthquake, however, in contrast to the other cities and in a testament to its wealth, the city rebuilt without any assistance from Roman empire.

Revelation 3:14-22 *Wholehearted*

¹⁴ “And to the angel of the church in Laodicea write: ‘The words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of God’s creation.

- **How does Jesus introduce Himself to the church in Laodicea? Why is this significant? Read through the verses below for more insight:**

The Amen

“All the promises of God find their Yes in him. That is why it is through him that we utter our Amen to God for his glory.” --II Corinthians 1:20

The Faithful and True Witness

“Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war.”
--Revelation 19:11

“Then Pilate said to him, ‘So you are a king?’ Jesus answered, ‘You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice.’” --John 18:37

The Beginning of God’s Creation

“He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.” --Colossians 1:15

“I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.” --Revelation 22:13

¹⁵ “I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were either cold or hot! ¹⁶ So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth. ¹⁷ For you say, I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing, not realizing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked. ¹⁸ I counsel you to buy from me gold refined by fire, so that you may be rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself and the shame of your nakedness may not be seen, and salve to anoint your eyes, so that you may see. ¹⁹ Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline, so be zealous and repent. ²⁰ Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me. ²¹ The one who conquers, I will grant him to sit with me on my throne, as I also conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne. ²² He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”

- **Jesus uses other images to reveal Himself to the Laodiceans. What does each communicate about Jesus and His relationship to His Church?**
 - Counselor (18)
 - Merchant (18)
 - Disciplinarian (19)
 - Visitor (20)
 - Enthroned (21)

- Does Jesus identify any way that the church of Laodicea positively reflects the glory of Christ?
- What rebuke does Christ have for the church at Laodicea? (15-17)
- What does it mean to be Hot? What does it mean to be Cold? Why does Jesus wish that we were either Hot or Cold?
- Describe a time when you were Cold or Hot as a Christian. How did you *know* if you were Cold or Hot?
- How do you repent when you learn that you are lukewarm?
- How does Jesus renew hope for this church? (19-22)
- Jesus's revelation of Himself provides renewing hope to lukewarm believers. Which ministry of Jesus below do you need or most appreciate in this season of life? Why?
 - Jesus provides counsel to the unaware
 - Jesus shares a meal as a guest with the wretched
 - Jesus counsels truth to the blind
 - Jesus is the source of white garments to the naked
 - Jesus is the source of riches (*gold refined by fire*) to the poor
- Pray together in response to God's Word.

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

