

LIFE GROUPS



BOTTOM LINE

What is the core truth of this lesson?

In the last days, the Church will fulfill her calling only as she takes to heart the words of commendation and condemnation that Jesus speaks to her.

HIS-Story

What does the Bible say?

1. Read Revelation 1:13-16. Who is being described here? What is revealed about this person? There are other descriptions contained in the first five chapters as well. What are some of these?
2. Christ commends four things in the churches: love, perseverance in face of trials, growth in faithfulness, and discernment (see Revelation 1:5-6, 2:18, 2:2, 2:13, 3:8, 2:19). Why are these traits commendable? What does this tell us about God's expectations for his church?
3. There are three things that Christ condemns in the churches: backsliding, superficial love, and addiction to appetites (see Revelation 2:4-5, 3:1-2, 3:15-16, 2:24, 2:20). Why are these traits not acceptable to God? What does this tell us about God's expectations for his church?

OUR-Story

How does the Bible storyline intersect ours?

4. Over and over in these first few chapters of Revelation, God tells us that he knows what we are doing (see Revelation 2:2, 2:9, 2:13, 2:19, 3:1, 3:8, 3:15). Do you think that our church is actively aware that God is watching?
5. Of the four things that God commends in the churches in Revelation, which ones do you see at our church?

6. Of the three things that Christ condemns in the churches in Revelation, which ones do you see at our church?

MY-Story

How does the Bible storyline impact me?

7. In Revelation 4:9-11, we read the response that Jesus receives. Why is the crowd saying these things and acting this way? What do you think your reaction will be when you are in the presence of Jesus? What things would you praise him for?
8. Earlier we discussed some things that Christ commends in the churches in Revelation. What are some things that you think Jesus would commend in your own life?
9. The book of Revelation makes it pretty clear that there are things that we can do that make God happy and things that make him sad or even angry. It also says that we will be held accountable for the things that we do (see Revelation 21:12-13). What does Jesus' sacrifice mean to us when we consider the final judgment?

WALK THE LINE

What next step can I take to respond to God?

Thankful for those areas where Jesus would commend my faithfulness, the area of my discipleship where I know I need to "remember and repent" is...

