

## Revelation

### God's Promises Fulfilled



## TALK IT OVER

#### Key Scriptures

8 *“To the angel of the church in Smyrna write:*

*These are the words of him who is the First and the Last, who died and came to life again. 9 I know your afflictions and your poverty—yet you are rich! I know about the slander of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan. 10 Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you, the devil will put some of you in prison to test you, and you will suffer persecution for ten days. Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you life as your victor’s crown.*

*11 Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. The one who is victorious will not be hurt at all by the second death.*

12 *“To the angel of the church in Pergamum write:*

*These are the words of him who has the sharp, double-edged sword. 13 I know where you live—where Satan has his throne. Yet you remain true to my name. You did not renounce your faith in me, not even in the days of Antipas, my faithful witness, who was put to death in your city—where Satan lives.*

*14 Nevertheless, I have a few things against you: There are some among you who hold to the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to entice the Israelites to sin so that they ate food sacrificed to idols and committed sexual immorality. 15 Likewise, you also have those who hold to the teaching of the Nicolaitans. 16 Repent therefore! Otherwise, I will soon come to you and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth.*

*17 Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who is victorious, I will give some of the hidden manna. I will also give that person a white stone with a new name written on it, known only to the one who receives it.*

REVELATION 2:8-17 (NIV)

#### Start talking. Find a conversation starter for your group.

- What would you do if you were rich?
- What is something outside of church and family that you are committed to 100% and would do anything for it?

#### Start thinking. Ask a question to get your group thinking.

- Have you ever known someone that seemed religious, but needed a relationship with Jesus (Verse 9)?
- What is the difference between religion and faith?
- What do you think verse 11 means??
- In faith, does the prior question change?
- What are some idols of today? (idols are false gods but more importantly are things for which people would give up talents, time, money, and time with God)
- Paul writes about sexual immorality being the worst kind of sin (see I Corinthians 6:16, 18). Why do you think it is worse than any other?
- Do you think the church today is being influenced by the culture around us too much?

#### Start sharing. Choose a question to create openness.

- What are your struggles with keeping focus on God?
- John shares God’s correction after he gives affirmation of the good the church is doing? Why do you think that it is important for us to have encouragement with the correction?

#### Start praying. Be bold and pray with power.

*Lord, Jesus, You are the First and the Last and carry the Truth with you. Help us to hear the Truth and live the Truth out in our lives. Help us to focus on you and stay away from evil. In Christ’s Name... Amen*

#### Start doing. Commit to a step and live it out this week.

- Be specific - What is a way to stay focussed on God this week? What is something you can give up that is a distraction?
- How can the group pray for you this week?