



Series: Revelation—a book of hope

## The Heart of the Church

February 16, 2020



# ENGAGE

(A key part of healthy group life is to make sure your group gets to know each other and builds good relationships. The purpose of these first questions is to help your group open up. Please don't feel like you have to ask each question. Once you feel like the group is ready, move onto the "Inspire" section.)

- What emotion does the book of Revelation most often stir within you?
- If you had to convey unpleasant news, would you rather send an email or deliver the news in person?

Prayer: Take some time to pray for God to speak to your group through this week's study.

# INSPIRE

(Each question has a lot to unpack. Since the group may need time to process each question, don't let silence scare you. Try to avoid filling the space with unnecessary explanation or moving on from the question too quickly.)

1. Read Revelation 2:1-7. What were the positives at Ephesus? Negatives? What did they need to do?  
The church in Ephesus was busy working for the Lord, but lacked sincere love. They had programs, but no passion. They had great statistics, but they were drifting away from the Lord. Is this a danger in our church today? What should we do?
2. Read Revelation 2:18-28. What were the positives at Thyatira? Negatives? What did they need to do?  
The church in Thyatira had allowed a false teacher "Jezebel" to lead the people into sin. How do we prevent false teaching?
3. Read Revelation 3:14-22. What were the positives at Laodicea? Negatives? What did they need to do?  
The church in Laodicea was a lukewarm, apostate church, with a big budget and no blessing. They were materially rich and spiritually poor. The tragedy was, they didn't know how poor and miserable they really were! Christ stands outside the church, calling for even one believer to yield to Him. What are the dangers of being lukewarm?
4. Which of these three letters do you think speaks more to the heart of the church, today in America?

# EQUIP

### Application:

(These questions will challenge your group members to apply the study to their daily lives. How can they live out what they take in? It is highly important that you go over this section with your group each week for the group study to be a success.)

Believers, the church, are a like a lampstand. We don't create the light, but merely hold it and let it shine. As members of the body of Christ, what can each of us do to protect the heart of the church, making sure that Christ's light burns bright in a dark world?

### Equip Your Mind:

Revelation 3:20: "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."