

REVELATION

ALL • THINGS • NEW

UPSTATE GROUP LEADER GUIDE

Week 2 - January 15-22 - *Revelation 2-3*

LEADER NOTES

This week, we are diving into the first part of Revelation. Jesus is communicating to seven churches facing both physical and spiritual problems. While the message is directed to the seven churches specifically, Jesus' message is one that is applicable across time and space.

King Jesus is still speaking to us today through His Word. We must have ears to hear what the Spirit will say, submitting ourselves to His conviction.

Thank you to everyone who attended the first group leader training; remember we have two more left on January 14 and 21st. You do not want to miss it.

COMMUNITY

Open the group by caring for one another and allowing a moment for everyone to have a place to belong.

Start the group by taking prayer requests, finding out about people's week, and praying for one another.

Opening Questions:

- *If Jesus were to send a message to the church in America, what would he say.*

SCRIPTURE

Take this time to study the Bible together. Remember, the goal is not just to convey information, but to help people in your group learn to read the Bible for themselves.

THE POINT

Jesus is coming soon, so remain faithful.

Revelation 2:1-7

“To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: ‘The words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand, who walks among the seven golden lampstands. 2 “I know your works, your toil and your patient endurance, and how you cannot bear with those who are evil, but have tested those who call themselves apostles and are not, and found them to be false. 3 I know you are enduring patiently and bearing up for my name’s sake, and you have not grown weary. 4 But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first. 5 Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent, and do the works you did at first. If not, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent. 6 Yet this you have: you hate the works of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. 7 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who conquers I will grant to eat of the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.’

The Holy Bible: English Standard Version (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), Revelation 2:1-7.

STUDY NOTES

Revelation two and three contain messages from Jesus to the leaders of seven churches. The main message of these letters is to remain faithful until the end. The theme of Revelation is that Jesus is going to make all things new. The Book is meant to be informative and encouraging to the churches serving as they wait for the new to come. Therefore, along with a revelation of the future, Jesus spends time writing to the churches in the present. The reason is to motivate the churches to remain faithful until He comes.

As you go through the text, notice how Jesus evaluates these churches. He genuinely cares about how the church operates. Some aspects of the church should remain and some the church should change. Jesus looks at the activity, then digs deep into the heart of that activity. For instance, at Ephesus, the church is active, but at the heart, they lose their first love. They serve God for the wrong reasons.

Nonetheless, as you read the letters, you will notice they are practical and applicable to us today. These churches are a reflection of our churches. They reveal some of the same struggles we face and the qualities we possess. What a blessing that Jesus has something to say and wants us to hear. He is the Lord who sees the truth, tells the truth, and judges according to the truth.

We are citizens of heaven where Jesus is King. So we should act like we belong to heaven and King Jesus. Some of this evaluation does not seem encouraging. However, it is absolutely encouraging to know that Christ cares about His church. He desires for us to be right with Him.

There are two thoughts to keep in mind as you lead the group:

1. We must be open to the Spirit as He reveals our own hearts. We must be open to spiritual evaluation.

2. Though Revelation reveals Jesus as King in the future, we must not forget that He is King now and we must hear what He has to say to us.

For more resources on this passage click the resources link [here](#).

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

- What does Jesus say is good with the church?
- What does Jesus say is wrong with the church?
- What are the instructions that Jesus gives to help them endure to the end?
- How does each church relate to the Upstate Church today?
- Even though we evaluate churches, what can we learn about our personal walk with Christ?
- How can we individually contribute to the endurance of the church?

COMMISSION

As you wrap up your group, it is imperative that everyone knows we go into the world on mission for Jesus. Use this time to focus everyone to live on mission as you leave.

- What aspects of the Church does Christ want the world to see in order for them to be saved?
- Who in your life needs to know Jesus?