

REVELATION

ALL • THINGS • NEW

UPSTATE GROUP LEADER GUIDE

Week 3 - January 22-28 - *Revelation 3:14-22*

LEADER NOTES

King Jesus expects his follower's full devotion, and Revelation 3 makes clear that apathy in the life of the church and the Christian should never exist. Use this time to push your group to a deeper devotion to Jesus.

Thank you so much to everyone that could attend the group leader training. We are expectant of how the Lord will use you in this next phase of the life of our church.

As we launch into week three of our study of Revelation, we would love your feedback on the curriculum being used. You can send feedback, as well as questions or comments about the group leader training, to Will Bray at will.bray@upstatechurch.org.



FIRST BAPTIST SIMPSONVILLE
UPSTATE CHURCH

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:

- *In the past week, what did you do that most excited you?*
- *How would you describe someone with an apathetic heart?*

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

Evaluate your passion for Christ.

Revelation 3:14-22

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.
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.'"

The Holy Bible: English Standard Version (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), Revelation 3:14-22.

STUDY NOTES

No one is excited about everything, but apathy in our relationship with Jesus has no place in the life of His disciples or the church. In fact, Jesus used extreme imagery when He spoke about those who failed to give Him their full affection. Jesus expects and deserves whole-hearted devotion from His people. We all have moments where the fire does not burn as bright as others. However, a believer who lives a lifestyle of apathy toward following Christ is not right with God.

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.

Though Jesus' message to the church at Laodicea contained no praise, it did contain grace. Their problem had a solution in Christ. He urged the believers to repent and open their lives to Him as Lord, promising that if they did so, they would enjoy spiritual victory and intimate fellowship with Him.

The letter to the church concludes with a positive and even urgent invitation to the Laodiceans to return to a close relationship with Him. The invitation is for believers to open the door of their hearts to their Lord for intimate fellowship. The image of a meal is important. Eating together is a sign of fellowship and complete acceptance. That is what Jesus earnestly offers and desires. Although Jesus' invitation is to the church, if anyone repents, He will come to that person with the most majestic reward possible—to sit at the divine banquet with Jesus on His throne.

In short, Jesus gives these three instructions:

- 1. The church needs to confess.**
- 2. The church needs conviction to serve Christ.**
- 3. The church needs communion with Christ.**

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

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

- How would you describe a church that is lukewarm?
- What are the dangers of this type of spiritual apathy for a church and individual Christians?
- What causes a church to lose its fervor for ministry and outreach?
- What would happen to spiritual apathy if people continually remained aware of God's greatness?
- Describe repentance in your own words. Why is this something God values so highly?
- Are you lukewarm in your devotion to God? If so, how do you sense Him drawing you back to Himself?
- What does it look like to "eat with" Jesus (v. 20)? Why is this an appropriate picture of spiritual intimacy with Him?

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.

- How does an apathetic church affect the surrounding neighborhood? How can we make sure that isn't happening at our church?
- Who in your life needs to know Jesus?