

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

Week 1 | Love | Rev. 2:1-7

Ice Breaker: Describe a moment when you felt very loved.

General Study Questions

- How does this passage fit into the book as a whole?
- How does it flow from the previous section of the text?
- What in the passage stands out to you?
- How does this passage minister to its original audience?
- How does this text minister to us today?
- Is there a sin to confess?
- Is there a cause for thanksgiving or praise to God?
- Is there a promise or truth to trust in?
- Is there an attitude to change?
- Is there a command to obey or an example to imitate?
- Is there anything confusing or hard to understand about the passage?
- How is the Gospel present in this passage?
- What is the single, main point of the passage?
- How would you apply this passage to your life?

Text Specific Questions

1. Ephesus was a prominent and wealthy city, and its culture was tied to the worship of Artemis. What are some similarities and differences between our culture today and the culture in Ephesus?
2. Rev. 2:1 describes Jesus as the one "who holds the seven stars" and "walks among the seven golden lampstands." What did these descriptions represent? How were they an encouragement to the church at Ephesus? How can they encourage us today?
3. God praises the church for testing and removing false apostles in Rev. 2:2. How do we "test" teachers today? Can you think of examples of when the church has tested different teachings to confirm them as true or false?
4. In Rev. 2:6, God adds another praise for the church, that they hated the works of Nicolaitans. Does it surprise you that God would consider hate towards something a good thing? Why or why not?
5. In Rev. 2:4, God tells the church what He has against them: that they had abandoned the love they had at first. Do you think this love refers to a love of God, a love of others, or both? What is the relationship between the way we love God and the way that we love others?
6. What does it look like in the church today when we oppose what God opposes but do not do it in love? Can you think of specific examples?
7. What does God say will happen to the church if they do not repent (2:5)? What does God say is the reward if they do repent and return to love (2:7)? What does this say about the importance that love has in the sight of God?
8. Read 1 Cor. 13:4-7 silently to yourself, replacing the word "love" with your name. What description seemed true of you? What description did you feel was not true? Consider using those descriptions as a "measurement" in the front of your journal. What is one step you can take to grow in the area that did not fit you? Mark that down as a potential output in the front of your journal.
9. Picture a scale from 1-10 that describes how loving someone is (1 is not loving at all, 10 is loving like Jesus does). Give yourself a number and consider adding it as a measurement in the front of your journal. Why did you choose that number? What would it take to move one point closer to 10 on that scale? Mark your answer down as a potential output in your journal.

Close in Prayer

Have each person share any additional prayer requests they may have. Spend some time praying for those requests, as well as the outputs people have shared. If you have a larger group, consider breaking up into smaller groups of 2-3 for this time. Be sure to write down prayer requests and outputs so you can pray during the week.