

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

Week 2 | Perseverance | Rev. 2:8-11

Ice Breaker

What is the farthest you have ever run without stopping? What kept you from being able to run farther, to persevere?

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. What does it mean that Jesus is the first and the last? How would that be a comfort to the Christians at Smyrna? How is that a comfort to us today?
2. Jesus is the one who died and came to life. Why is the resurrection so important? How do we know this resurrection happened?
3. The Christians in Smyrna are physically poor but spiritually rich. Read Proverbs 30:7-9 and James 2:5. What are the dangers of having too much money? In America (and in Lake Country), most of us have more wealth than we realize. How can we protect ourselves from these dangers?
4. There was a particular group of Jews who were slandering the Christians in Smyrna. How are Christians slandered today? How can we respond?
5. God does not promise that He will remove the church's trials; instead, He warns that more are coming. Have you ever been taught or believed that following Christ would make life easy? What's the danger of that type of teaching or belief?
6. Some people believe that if God was truly good He would remove all of our trials. How would you respond to that type of belief? How can we know God is good even if the world is not?
7. We do not face persecution in America, but everyone has to persevere through trials. One step we can take is making sure our focus is on Jesus. Read Hebrews 12:1-3. Is your life focused on Christ? Is there a step you need to take to bring your focus back to Him? Consider writing your answers down in your measurement and output sections in your Measured journal.
8. Another step we can take is to make sure we are regularly meeting with other believers. Read Hebrew 10:24-25. Are you experiencing deep Christian community? Is there a step you need to take to go deeper into community? Consider writing your answers down in your measurement and output sections of your Measured 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 written down or 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.