



Harvester Groups

Seven Churches: Ephesus | Revelation 2:1-7 | Group Questions Week 1

Open

- What does “first love” look like?

Discuss*

- Revelation is a combination of three genres: apocalyptic literature, prophecy, and epistle. In reference to prophecy, discuss this statement—“Prophecy does not simply seek to predict the future, but to change the present.” How does this apply to the message to the Ephesian church?
- In what ways does Jesus commend the church?
- What is Jesus’ challenge to the church?
- What might it mean to “abandon the love you had at first?”
- How can the Ephesian church find its way back to their first love?
- The message to the Ephesians teaches that truth and love must go hand-in-hand. Which one of these is most difficult for followers of Jesus today? For you? Why?

Reflect

- How would Jesus commend our church today?
- How would he challenge us today?
- Our church is made up of individuals. Returning to our first love involves remembering, repenting, and returning. How is Jesus calling us to respond to his message?
- Based just on this discussion, what should we pray about?

References: Acts 18; 20; Ephesians

Digging Deeper

Hendriksen, William. *More Than Conquerors*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1967.

Keener, Craig S. *The NIV Application Commentary: Revelation*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2009.

Smith, Scotty and Michael Card. *Unveiled Hope*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1997.

Stott, John. *What Christ Thinks of the Church*. Wheaton: Harold Shaw, 1990.

Wood, Shane J. *Lectures on the Book of Revelation*. <https://www.shanejwood.com/the-book-of-revelation/>

... some churches, like the church in Ephesus,
may risk simply killing themselves off by how they treat others.

~ Craig Keener

**Use these questions to guide your discussion. Don't feel like you have to go through all of them and make sure you take time to talk through any questions and observations from either the sermon or the lesson with the group.*