

Small Group Discussion Guide:

Revelation 2:1-7 – Return to Your First Love

Main Truth

Jesus commends what is faithful, confronts what is failing, and commands us to return to our first love.



Warm Up

Opening

What is something in life that must be regularly maintained or it will slowly deteriorate?



Know It

Read Revelation 2:1–7

As the passage is read, listen for what Jesus commends, confronts, and commands.

1. Jesus Commends the Church - Revelation 2:1–3

- What specific qualities does Jesus commend in the church at Ephesus?
- Which is most difficult for you: serving when you are tired, remaining faithful under pressure, or standing for truth when it is unpopular? Why?
- How does knowing that Jesus sees your faithfulness encourage you when other people do not recognize it?

2. Jesus Confronts the Church - Revelation 2:4

- How can someone remain busy working for Jesus while slowly drifting away from Jesus?
- What warning signs might reveal that our love for Jesus is beginning to grow cold?
- Is there anything in your life that may be competing with Jesus for first place in your heart?

Handle the final question with care. Give people space to reflect. If the group is hesitant, allow a moment of silence instead of forcing answers. Remind them that Jesus confronts what is failing because He loves His people and wants restoration.

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3. Jesus Commands the Church - Revelation 2:5–7

- What do you remember about a time when your relationship with Jesus felt especially close and personal?
- Why should repentance be understood as an invitation to restoration instead of merely a reason to feel guilty?
- What is one “first work” Jesus may be commanding you to begin doing again?



Live It

Encourage specific and realistic responses. The goal is not a vague desire to “do better,” but a clear step of returning to Jesus.

Personal Application

Complete this statement:

“This week, I will return to my first love by _____.”

- Close by asking Jesus to help each person remember His grace, repent of spiritual drift, and return to a close and loving relationship with Him.



Prayer

Close in prayer with a hopeful tone. Thank Jesus that He sees what is faithful, tells us the truth about what is failing, and lovingly calls us back to Himself.

Take-Home Truth

Jesus commends what is faithful, confronts what is failing, and commands us to return to our first love.