

### Key Scripture

*"What sorrow awaits you teachers of religious law and you Pharisees. Hypocrites! For you are careful to tithe even the tiniest income from your herb gardens, but you ignore the more important aspects of the law—justice, mercy, and faith. You should tithe, yes, but do not neglect the more important things.*

*Matthew 23:23*

*4 "But I have this complaint against you. You don't love me or each other as you did at first! 5 Look how far you have fallen! Turn back to me and do the works you did at first. If you don't repent, I will come and remove your lampstand from its place among the churches.*

*Revelation 2:4-5*

*"I know all the things you do, and that you have a reputation for being alive—but you are dead. 2Wake up! Strengthen what little remains, for even what is left is almost dead. I find that your actions do not meet the requirements of my God. 3Go back to what you heard and believed at first; hold to it firmly. Repent and turn to me again. If you don't wake up, I will come to you suddenly, as unexpected as a thief.*

*Revelation 3:1-3*

### Start talking. Find a conversation starter for your group.

- Is it easier to fall in love or stay in love?
- Pastor Lane said in the message "It's easier to be religious than to be in love with Jesus." Do you agree or disagree? Why?

### Start thinking. Ask a question to get your group thinking.

- Why does religion inform our intellect but do little to change our heart?
- Why was Jesus so hard on the Pharisees and religious leaders of his day?
- What was it like when you first gave your life to Jesus? How did you feel, what did you start doing?

### Start sharing. Choose a question to create openness.

- How can we honestly evaluate if/how much we are in love with God? Are there warning signs if our love is starting to fade?
- When Jesus told the churches in Revelation 2 & 3 to go back to what they heard, believed, and did at first; what was he talking about? List specific beliefs, actions, etc. that they probably stopped doing.
- Pastor Lane said you are the only one that can accurately answer the question of if/how much you love God. How would you answer that question today? Is your love growing or shrinking right now?

### Start praying. Be bold and pray with power.

Father, help us to fall in love with You again. As we evaluate our hearts, will you give us the courage to be honest with ourselves and take steps to course correct when necessary. Identify things that are pulling us away from you so we can repent and return. Amen

### Start doing. Commit to a step and live it out this week.

- Spend time with Jesus this week. Make a plan for how you are going to do the work to rekindle or grow your love for God.
- Ask God to show you anything that is pulling you away from Him. When He shows you, have the courage to deal with it.
- If you are not already in a Life Group, join one or start one! Remember iron sharpens iron (Prov. 27:17)