

Connect Group

CONNECT GROUP QUESTIONS | 8.23.26

This Too Shall Pass // Week 4

Scripture: Revelations 2:8-11

Welcome & Connection

Smyrnas had the nickname, “the city that died and came to life”. Did you ever have a nickname (don’t share one that you didn’t like)?

Connect Group Questions

1. **Read Revelation 2:8-11.** Jesus repeatedly tells the churches, “*I know.*” What difference does it make to know that Jesus sees and understands what you are going through—even when He doesn’t immediately remove it?
2. The Christians in Smyrna experienced pressure because they refused to give their ultimate allegiance to Caesar and the surrounding culture. **Where do you feel pressure to compromise, stay quiet, or fit in because of your faith?**
3. Jesus describes the believers in Smyrna as living in poverty, “**but you are rich.**” What do you think it looks like to be poor by the world’s standards but rich in the things that matter to God? What might the opposite look like?
4. Marty compared suffering to myrrh, which released its fragrance when it was crushed. **Read 2 Corinthians 2:15-16. When life puts the squeeze on you, what tends to come out?** What would it look like for the “aroma of Christ” to come out of us during difficult seasons?
5. Around the world, many Christians face levels of persecution that most of us have never experienced. At the same time, Marty reminded us not to minimize the real pressures and suffering we face. **What can we learn from persecuted Christians about remaining faithful in whatever pressure we are facing right now?**

6. Jesus doesn't promise the church in Smyrna that suffering will disappear. Instead, He tells them, **"Do not be afraid" and "Be faithful."** Where in your life do you most need to hear one of those two words right now? What could faithfulness look like for you this week?