Growth Tools

November 8, 2026
Pastor Greg Stansel

From Duty to Devotion
Revelation 2:1-7

REMEMBER: It is easier to discuss these questions in the group if you have thought through them before attending the group.

Checking In

Anything you want to share from your time in the Word this week?
How can the group be praying for/with you?

Connecting

Tell of a time you felt you had abandoned the love you had at first as a believer.

Study

Point 1: Jesus knows our work in ministry (2:1–3)

READ: Revelation 2:1–3

REFLECT: In what ways does the Lord commend Ephesus? What is revealed about the church's work? Why is it significant that Jesus walks among the churches? What does the phrase "I know your works" reveal about Christ's knowledge of His church? What is the difference between their labor and their toil? How does Ephesus treat evil and false teaching? Why is doctrinal discernment important for a healthy church? What does their endurance reveal about their commitment to Christ? What is their motivation to continue on?

RESPOND: What is the difference between simply being busy in ministry and genuinely laboring for Christ? What does it look like to faithfully work out your calling as a Christian? How should knowing that Jesus sees our labor encourage us when ministry becomes difficult or goes unnoticed? Are there areas where we need to exercise greater discernment concerning what we believe and tolerate? How can we cultivate greater steadfastness in serving Christ when we grow weary or discouraged?

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Point 2: Jesus knows our hearts (2:4)
READ: Revelation 2:4

REFLECT: What does Jesus identify as the problem in the church at Ephesus? What does it mean that they have abandoned their first love? How is it possible for a church to remain active in ministry while its love for Christ is fading? What warning does Jesus give about the consequences of failing to repent?

RESPOND: How can we recognize when our service for Christ has become disconnected from our love for Christ? What motivates your obedience and service to the Lord? How does a genuine love for Christ shape the way we love His church and reach those who do not know Him?

Point 3: Jesus knows how to renew our devotion (2:5–7)
READ: Revelation 2:5-7

REFLECT: What three commands does Jesus give the church to restore its devotion? What does it mean to remember where we have fallen, repent, and return to our former deeds? What does Jesus commend about the church's hatred of the Nicolaitans' practices? Why is it important for the church to continue hearing and obeying God's Word? What promise does Jesus give to *those who conquer?*

RESPOND: What practical steps can you take to rekindle your love for Christ? Is there anything you need to repent of or change in your walk with the Lord? How can we guard against allowing ministry activity, religious routines, or doctrinal knowledge to replace genuine devotion to Jesus? What hope should Christ's promise of eternal life give us as we seek to remain faithful?

Memorizing

"But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first. Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the works you did at first. If not, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent" (Revelation 2:4,5).

Preparing for next week

Read: Revelation 2:8-11

Ask: questions of the text.

Pray: through text, for pastor as he prepares, for your heart to hear, for the congregation to hear, for all of us to be obedient.

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