

# 2021 Community Groups

## WEEKLY GUIDE

### November 14

Pastor Aaron continues his series on the Book of Revelation. This week he covered the last of the seven churches, Laodicea. It was a city of wealth, trade, fashion, and affluence. The kind of place that might make you think they had it all together. But, in reality the culture developed in Laodicea was not one of having it "all together". It could be described as a culture of spiritual malaise or even apathy. It is such a strong warning for us all.

### Community Prayer:

Father, we exalt you, we magnify you, we lift your name on high because you are worthy of all praise and honor. As we look at our final church in Revelation open our hearts and minds to be able to understand why we should not desire to be lukewarm Followers of Jesus. May we desire to be on fire for you willing to spread the Good News to those you bring into our lives and live a transformed life by the power of the Holy Spirit working through us; in Jesus' Name, Amen.

### Opening Questions

1. Which of the seven churches can you most identify with? Why?
  - a. What has God shown you that has drawn you closer to Him as a result of the study of these churches?

### EXPLORATION

Read the passages below...what can you learn about what it means to follow Jesus from these passages? (Have someone read from their bible)

### Laodicea

- The banking center of the region, located on a profitable trade route, a commercial city
- Hosted a really good medical school (had a particularly popular eye-powder)
- Farmers developed a particular breed of sheep with black wool; a fashion center
- 3 Industries: Money, Fashion, Medicine
- One thing they did not have was a good water source; water was piped in
- Good news, Hierapolis to the north had these famous hot springs; people traveled to see Colossae to the south, that had an abundant supply of cold refreshing water from the snow melt.



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### Revelation 3:14

2. Jesus referred to Himself as "the Amen", what does this mean to you?
  - a. When you end your prayer you say Amen, how does this correlate to Jesus?
3. Jesus is also the "Ruler of God's creation", what does this say about Him? (**John 1:1-3**)

### Revelation 3:15-16

4. What do the terms cold or hot mean to you in this passage?
5. Why does Jesus want you to be either cold or hot?
6. Describe the attributes of a lukewarm Christian?
  - a. Why is this person so repulsive to Jesus?

**I know your deeds:** deeds reveal the reality of our faith, deeds confirm or deny the genuineness of salvation.

This church was not providing refreshment for the spiritually weary, nor healing the spiritually sick. It was totally ineffective and so it was vomit worthy. Lukewarm water was useless in comparison to cold and hot water that had purpose.

### Revelation 3:17

7. How can you be financially rich but poor in the eyes of God?
8. What does spiritual richness look like from God's perspective for this church and for you?

### Revelation 3:18

9. Why is God a better counselor for you than anyone else?
10. What happens when gold is refined through fire?
  - a. How does this relate to God's counsel for you?
11. What does the white clothes to wear symbolize in God's counsel?
12. What does the salve for your eyes symbolize in God's counsel?

**Gold refined in the fire:** True riches, the riches of faith come and buy what money can't buy! (**1 Peter 1:7**)

**Consumeristic view:** a faith that serves me, a faith that gets me what I want

**White clothes to wear:** The righteous deeds that accompany salvation.  
**Consumeristic view:** look the part, faith that makes others black wool



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**Salve for your eyes:** Blindness represents a lack of understanding and knowledge. (2 Corinthians 4:44)

**Consumeristic view:** Looking more to culture than to Christ

### Revelation 3:19

13. Why is godly discipline important in your life?
14. Why is being earnest and willing to repent the kind of desires that please your heavenly Father?

### Revelation 3:20

15. What does this verse say about Jesus' desire to restore this church and you?

### Revelation 3:21-22

16. What allows us to be victorious? (1 John 5:4)

### Parents' Corner

The people of Laodicea were very affluent, and sadly, the church bought into this independent and prideful spirit. Because of this they became apathetic and weren't very useful for the kingdom of God. If we aren't careful to involve our students in serving they can develop the same attitude.

### DISCUSS:

17. How can we get our students involved in serving consistently and prioritize it (even when they have full schedules with school, sports, etc.)?
18. Are there ways we might unknowingly communicate that life is all about getting a good job, income, comfort, while neglecting spiritual growth and the great commission to reach a lost world?

Read Rev. 3:20. This has been used out of context to present the gospel to unbelievers, but in context it is best understood as an invitation for *believers* to come back to close fellowship with Jesus and service in His kingdom.

19. Are there ways that you feel Jesus is calling you to prioritize Jesus in your family even more?
20. How can you do that practically?



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### THE TAKEAWAY

The church is designed by God to be a place of hope for the hurting and comfort for the weary but sadly many churches do not provide Jesus' hope to this world.

- Who needs to open the door, because you left Jesus outside?
- What do we need to repent of collectively?
- We carry the image of God and the creation and creativity of God is on display through our lives.

### PRAYER REQUESTS

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