

2021 Community Groups

WEEKLY GUIDE

October 24

Pastor Aaron continues week 4 of the series on the Book of Revelation. This week's message is on the Church at Thyatira and it was full of imagery as well as connections to the Old Testament.

Thyatira

- A trade center of copper, bronze and brass,
- The center for worship of Apollo, the god of sunlight; he was thought to be the divine guardian of the city.
- Apollo was widely held to be the "Son of Zeus."
- Domitian named his child 'son of god' and on his coins his son is portrayed holding 7 stars.

Community Prayer:

Merciful Father; Thank you for all that we have learned so far in this great book. As we dig deeper into the person of Jesus and His various images and names, help us to understand and appreciate He who has a name above every name. Help us to see You are a Righteous Judge who also gives us room to repent of our sins; in Jesus' Name, Amen.

Opening Questions

1. What is the city you are from (or where you live) known for?

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)

Revelation 2:18

2. Which of these images of Jesus speak most vividly to you? Why?
3. Why is it so important that Jesus is called 'The Son of God'?

John 3:16

4. What does this verse say about the depths of God love for you, and the provision He provides to deal with your sin problem?

Revelation 2:19

5. Which of these four works resonate with you the most? Why?
6. Which is the most challenging for you? Why?
7. Do you feel that your later works are greater than your former? Why?



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Revelation 2:20

8. Have you ever fallen victim to a so-called Christian who tried to lead you astray from your Christian beliefs? How did God work things out for you?
 - a. Think about those times when they might do things like justify or normalize sin in our culture.
9. Do you believe that the spirit of Jezebel is alive and well today? Why?

Jezebel: 1 Kings chapters 16-22 (read for further study)

- She was the daughter of the king of Tyre and Sidon: cities hostile to Israel
- She became the wife of Ahab the King of Israel
- She was a committed worshipper of Baal, a rival god to Israel
- She became a powerful force in government and led the people to worship Baal
- She had any prophet who dared speak against her executed
- Her view was that someone could worship Baal and Yahweh together (compromise)

Some people inside these churches are physically present but spiritually they are very distant. Others are there, and they are actually followers of Jesus, but there is deception in their lives, there is sin that need to be dealt with.

10. What is the best way for you to avoid being deceived by Jezebels?

Revelation 2:21

11. Why do you think God is so patient with people who do evil?

Revelation 2:22-23

12. What does verse 22 mean to you?
13. What type of works are you performing that you believe will please God? Why

Revelation 2:23-29

14. What does it mean to you when Jesus says: "Hold fast until I come"?



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THE TAKEAWAY

- **We need a vision of Jesus more compelling than our small visions of this life.**
- **We need to see Him as He really is, Worship Him as He deserves.**
- **We only have room for 1 all-encompassing devotion and His name is JESUS.**

“Our hearts have room only for one all-embracing devotion, and we can only cleave to one Lord.” The Cost of Discipleship Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Parents' Corner

In Thyatira there were specific warnings against sexual immorality and idolatry because of the culture around them that was pressuring believers to give in. It's interesting to note that Jesus did not command the believers to leave this city, or any of the cities we've studied, but to be faithful where they were at.

15. What are some challenges your students face because of the city/neighborhood where you live?
16. What about in their school environment, sports team, or friend group?
17. How can you encourage your students to stay faithful to the Lord where they are at?

(Think about the things above specifically, not in general like we asked last week.)

1 Cor. 15:33 says, “Do not be misled: ‘Bad company corrupts good character’” (NIV).

As parents, we want our kids to stay faithful and influence others for the gospel, but we're also aware that they can be swayed away from the Lord by bad influences.

18. How do you discern how/when to limit your child's exposure to negative influences, and when to give them freedom to make those decisions? (Take age and maturity into consideration.)



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19. “Bad company” can also come in the form of social media platforms, YouTube, etc. How do you help your kids navigate this?

One interesting issue in this church, and the one last week as well, is the mention of eating “food sacrificed to idols”. In 1 Cor. 8 the Apostle Paul says that there is nothing *inherently* wrong with the food, but it can cause people who are weaker in faith to stumble (become a “stumbling block”). If we’re not careful we can unknowingly cause our kids to stumble without realizing it as well (watching TV shows or movies inappropriate for their age, etc.).

20. What are some things that we should be careful of doing, saying, watching, or participating in so that we don’t cause our kids to stumble in their faith?

PRAYER REQUESTS

