

## Small Group Guide: Revelation 2:12-29 - The Churches of Pergamum and Thyatira

### Key Takeaways:

- Jesus confronts compromise and corruption in the church.
- Spiritual warfare involves battling ideas and belief systems, not just outward actions.
- Discernment is crucial for Christians to avoid deception and false teachings.
- The "spirit of Jezebel" seeks to seduce believers into compromise and idolatry.
- God calls us to repentance and offers hope to those who overcome.

### Discussion Questions:

1. What does it mean that Jesus has a "sharp two-edged sword"? How does this relate to spiritual warfare in our lives?
2. This week's reading mentions "compartmentalization" in our faith. How might we be guilty of this in our own lives? What areas are we tempted to keep separate from our relationship with God?
3. How can we develop better spiritual discernment? Share experiences where you've felt something was "off" spiritually but couldn't immediately explain why.
4. Discuss the dangers of subtle compromise in our faith. How might seemingly small concessions lead to larger issues down the road?
5. The podcast talks about the "spirit of Jezebel." What are some ways this manipulative spirit might manifest in churches or individual believers' lives today?
6. How do we balance being welcoming and loving to all people while still maintaining strong biblical convictions?
7. Reflect on the C.S. Lewis quote about Aslan: "He's not safe, but he's good." How does this apply to our understanding of Jesus and our relationship with Him?

### Practical Applications:

This week, intentionally bring an area of your life you typically "compartmentalize" before God in prayer. Ask Him how He wants to be Lord over that area.

Practice discernment by discussing a popular book, movie, or cultural trend with the group. Evaluate it through a biblical lens, looking for both positive and potentially deceptive elements.

Identify one area where you might be compromising in your faith, even in a small way. Make a plan to address it and ask an accountability partner to check in with you.

Spend time in prayer asking God to reveal any false teachings or subtle deceptions you may have unknowingly accepted. Be open to correction and repentance.

Memorize Hebrews 4:12 about the power of God's Word as a "sharp two-edged sword." Reflect on how this truth can help you combat spiritual deception.