

DEAR CHURCH

Discussion Questions 10/25/26

Dear Smyrna

Intro: In his letter to the church in Smyrna, Jesus reminds suffering believers that he sees their afflictions and calls them to remain faithful, even when faithfulness comes at a great cost. Through the example of the slain lamb and the promise of resurrection, we are reminded that victory in God's kingdom isn't about avoiding suffering but about faithfully loving Jesus and our neighbors through it. Because Jesus has conquered death, we can live with courage, deepen our love for him, and remain faithful in both the small tests of today and the greater challenges that may come tomorrow.

Story: Share a time that God has met you in suffering or trials.

Read: Revelation 2:8-11

1. Jesus tells the church in Smyrna, "I know your afflictions and your poverty." What does it mean to you that Jesus sees and knows our suffering?
2. Acknowledging the suffering of Christians around the world doesn't mean dismissing our own struggles. Why is it important to hold both truths together?
3. How does the image of Jesus as both the Lion of Judah and the slain Lamb in Revelation 5:5-6 reshape our understanding of winning, losing, and faithfulness?
4. Read Daniel 1. How does Daniel's faithfulness during a relatively small test connect with Jesus' call for the church in Smyrna to remain faithful through suffering? What small acts of faithfulness might be preparing us for greater challenges?
5. What is one practical way you can practice faithfulness in the little things this week?

Pray:

- For endurance.
- For deep roots of love.
- For your enemies.