

Go Deeper

Disciple Group Leader Guide



THE COST OF SECOND PLACE

Based on Revelation 3:14-22 and Luke 10:38-42

Opening Prayer

Begin your group time by asking God to soften hearts, reveal areas where He may be in second place, and ignite fresh passion for Him.

Ice Breaker

Share about a time when you got so busy with good things that you missed out on something better. How did you feel when you realized what you'd missed?

Key Takeaways from the Sermon

1. The church's greatest danger comes from within - not from external threats, but from losing our first love for Jesus
2. We haven't lost our hunger; we've filled up on the wrong things - lesser priorities have ruined our appetite for God
3. You can be spiritually active yet spiritually dead - busy doing church work without intimate relationship with Jesus
4. Lukewarmness begins when Christ stops being our treasure and becomes merely an obligation
5. Jesus still pursues us - even in our lukewarm state, He stands at the door and knocks

ANNOUNCEMENTS

07.13 - 07.15

VBS Jesup

07.20 - 07.22

VBS Brunswick

07.26.26

Grow Class

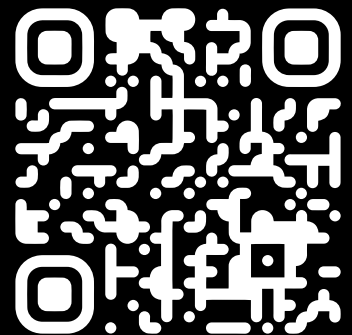
07.07.26

TP Kicks

08.02.26

Back to School
Prayer Service

Download the
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App



TURNING POINT

Discussion Questions

Understanding the Message

- Read Revelation 3:14-22 together. Why do you think Jesus gave the Laodicean church the strongest rebuke in Scripture when they weren't involved in obvious sin or false teaching?
- The sermon stated: "The greatest privilege in that house wasn't dishes... it was being at His feet." What does this mean practically for our lives today?
- Explain the difference between Jesus being "added to your life" versus "being the center of your life." What does this look like in everyday terms?

Personal Reflection

- The "First Response or Last Resort" question: Is Jesus your first response in the morning or your last resort in crisis? Be honest about your current reality.
- Pastor PJ mentioned that "when your hunger to make people like you trumps your hunger to please God, you're in dangerous territory." What are some "lesser things" that have competed for your affection and attention lately?
- The sermon described Martha as "distracted by lesser things" - being dragged away from what mattered most. What are the "lesser things" that tend to drag you away from time with Jesus?
 - Work demands?
 - Social media?
 - Entertainment?
 - Even ministry activities?

Going Deeper

- Read Ezekiel 36:26. Have you experienced areas where your heart has become "stony" - hard, unresponsive, or numb to conviction? What causes this hardening?
- The message emphasized that "discipline and correction is not the wrath of God" but proof that He loves you. How does this change your perspective on conviction from the Holy Spirit?
- The pursuit of Jesus: Even when the Laodicean church became self-sufficient, Jesus still stood at the door knocking. How does knowing that Jesus pursues you (even in lukewarmness) impact you?
- Pastor PJ said, "If you go a week without praying, it's not because you don't have good planning skills. It's because you really don't need Him." How would you respond to this statement?

Self-Assessment

Rate yourself honestly (1-10 scale):

- My daily time in prayer and Scripture: ____
- How "hungry" I am for God's presence: ____
- Jesus as my treasure vs. obligation: ____
- My sensitivity to Holy Spirit conviction: ____
- The "temperature" of my faith (cold, lukewarm, hot): ____

Share one rating with the group and explain why you chose that number.

Practical Applications

This Week's Challenge: Choose ONE

Option 1: The Mary Challenge

- Set aside 15-30 minutes daily this week to simply "sit at Jesus' feet"
- No agenda, no prayer list - just be with Him
- Read Scripture slowly, worship, listen
- Journal what God reveals to you

Option 2: The Hunger Reset

- Identify one "lesser thing" that has been filling you up and crowding out your appetite for God
- Fast from that thing for one week (social media, TV, news, etc.)
- Replace that time with prayer, worship, or Scripture reading

Option 3: The Heart of Flesh Prayer

- Pray Ezekiel 36:26 every morning: "Lord, take out my heart of stone and give me a heart of flesh"
- Ask God to show you where you've become hard, self-sufficient, or numb
- Keep a list of what He reveals and confess/repent as He leads

Group Accountability

- Exchange phone numbers with at least one person
- Check in mid-week: "How's your challenge going?"
- Be honest about struggles and victories

Action Steps for the Month

1. **Audit your schedule:** Where does time with Jesus actually appear in your weekly calendar? If it's not scheduled, it's not prioritized.
2. **Create a "first response" habit:** Before checking your phone, coffee, or anything else, spend 5 minutes acknowledging Jesus and inviting Him into your day.
3. **Identify your "Krispy Kreme":** What are you filling up on that ruins your appetite for God? Make a plan to address it.
4. **Practice the presence:** Throughout your day, pause and acknowledge Jesus. "Lord, I want to be aware of You right now."

Questions for Deeper Reflection

For Personal Journaling:

- If Jesus wrote a letter to my personal "church" (my heart), what would He say? What would He commend? What would He rebuke?
- What does it look like practically for me to make Jesus my "first love" again in this season of life?
- Am I more like Martha (busy serving) or Mary (sitting at His feet)? What needs to change?
- Where have I become self-sufficient, thinking "I'm rich and need nothing" when spiritually I may be "poor, blind, and naked"?

Scripture Memory

Revelation 3:20 "Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with Me."

Challenge: Memorize this verse as a group. Recite it together next week.

Prayer Focus

Pray as a group for:

Awakening - that God would stir fresh passion and hunger for Him in each person

Conviction - that the Holy Spirit would reveal areas where we've become lukewarm

Repentance - grace to turn from lesser things and return to our first love

Fire - that God would "set a fire down in our souls that we can't contain and can't control"

Intimacy - that we would treasure time with Jesus above all religious activity

Closing Reflection

Read this quote from the sermon together:

"Christianity is not about adding Jesus to your life. Christianity is about surrender. Surrendering your life. It's not 'Jesus, I'm adding You to my life so You can make me look better.' No, Christianity is surrender. That's the essence of this whole thing. Surrender to the Lordship of Jesus."

Final Question: What is one specific area where you need to surrender to Jesus this week?

Before Next Week

- Complete your chosen challenge
- Journal your experiences
- Come prepared to share one breakthrough or struggle
- Continue praying for group members

Leader Notes

- Create a safe space for honest sharing - lukewarmness is something many struggle with but few admit
 - Avoid condemnation - the goal is restoration, not guilt
 - Celebrate small steps - any movement toward Jesus is worth celebrating
 - Follow up - reach out to group members during the week
 - Model vulnerability - share your own struggles with keeping Jesus first
- "So set a fire down in my soul that I can't contain, that I can't control. I want more of You, God."