



WEEK 3

1. Ice Breaker: Compromise isn't always a bad thing. When is the last time you've compromised with someone for something good (your spouse, boss, child, etc.)?

As we continue our series from Revelation 1-3, "8 Churches," this weekend we explored the church in Pergamum from Revelation 2:12-17. Before you begin your discussion, ask God to speak to you through the Scripture. Then, read that passage aloud.

2. One Bible scholar writes: "If Ephesus was the New York of Asia, Pergamum was its Washington, for there the Roman imperial power had its seat of government." Pergamum was the center-point of emperor worship, but also held the altar to Zeus the Savior on the top of its acropolis. For the early Christians, the declaration "Jesus is Lord" (Romans 10:9) was a strong oath of allegiance to God in the face of the pagan altars and the emperor cult which declared "Caesar is lord."
 - a. What do you learn or notice about Jesus' encouraging words to the church in Pergamum in verses 12 and 13?
3. In order to better understand the reference to Balaam in verse 14, reference Numbers 22-24 and 31:16.
 - a. Given this background, how would you describe the correction that Jesus is speaking to the church in Pergamum in verses 14-16?
4. Jesus calls the church to repent from the compromise they've been making. He said "*Your Compromise has Compromised YOU.*" Repent has the meaning of turning around or having one's mind transformed with new thinking. Looking at the church in Pergamum, and the compromises you have made in your allegiance to Christ - how is the Holy Spirit asking you to "repent" in your thoughts or actions this week?
5. Dan also shared that as a Church in America, Our Compromise Compromises US. The Church may compromise to cultural relevance or compromise our witness in the way we engage culture and the political process. Every engagement must be founded on the word of God, allowing it (Heb. 4:12) to reveal our heart and motives. How were you challenged to engage our cultural and political process faithfully, refusing to compromise on what we believe, and yet engaging culture in a way that does not compromise your witness? (Grace Group leaders - I know that this may be a "hot topic" remind people to use "I" statements and remind your group to approach this conversation with Christ-like humility and charity).