

The Seven
How To Remain Faithful Till The End
Revelation 2v8-11
Growth Group Discussion Guide

Opening Question (get everyone involved in discussion):

- Begin your time together with a moment of silence, then pray and ask for God’s Spirit to shape us through his word.
- How did God speak to you through the scripture and the sermon this week?

- **Read Revelation 2v8-11 and discuss the following:**

- Jesus opens up his letter to a persecuted church by giving them doctrine. Why does he do that? Why does he not just immediately respond to what they’re going through
- Jesus identified himself as the first and last
 - Look at Revelation 1v8, 21v6-7, Isaiah 44v6 and Isaiah 48v12.
 - What does this Scriptures tell us about the fact that Christ is the first and last?
- Jesus also identifies himself as the one who died and came to life again. How would the fact that Jesus conquered death comfort them?
- Why are these character qualities important for people who are being persecuted or enduring great personal suffering?
 - Pastor Erik mentioned that suffering can result in a incorrect view of reality as despair takes over.
 - Do you agree, disagree. Why?
- What 2 hardships does Jesus say the Smyrnan church will face and what does Jesus say about them in response?
- Look at the phrase be “faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you life as your victor’s crow.” Here, Christ is calling for a faithful endurance as Christians live life awaiting the return of Christ.
 - What does it mean to be faithful in our own culture?
- Pastor Erik mentioned that in order to be faithful in the big things, you have to start being faithful in the little things.
 - Think for a moment....how can you prepare now and commit to faithful endurance so that you can be faithful then?
- Lastly, in revelation 2v11, Jesus connects victory to hearing the word.
 - In what way does hearing (and doing) the word help us experience daily victory?
 - In what ways are you currently hearing and doing the Word? What needs to happen for you to continue committing yourself to hearing the Word?

- **Application: The Big Idea of the text was: Staying Faithful Till the End begins and ends with focusing on Jesus Christ.**

- Reflecting on the 4 actions that Jesus gave the Smyrnan Church:

- Remember Who Christ Is (Doctrine) v. 8
- Know that Christ Sees Our Pain (v. 9)
- Commit to Faithful Endurance (v.10)
- Obey God's Word (v.11)
- Of these 4, which ones are you doing well in. Which ones is the Holy Spirit leading you to improve in? What do you sense needs to happen in order to do these 4 more faithfully?

Prayer:

- Pray for the persecuted church in our world (those in the 10-40 window, Middle East, China, Latin America, Africa). Pray that like the Smyrnan Christians they would remain faithful till the end and be strengthened by the Spirit in them.
- Pray for any needs that arose out of the discussion.