

**Lost in the Forest**  
Growth Group Discussion  
Revelation 2:1-7

**Intro questions**

- Describe a time when you were literally lost—either in a car, or hiking, or otherwise. What did it feel like? How did the situation resolve?
1. For important background, read Rev. 1:12-20, then discuss the following.
    - In this apocalyptic style of writing, what do the “seven stars” and “seven golden lampstands” represent?
    - What can you gather about the Speaker in this section?
    - This description will be important for each of the seven letters that we will study in this series! In each letter, a specific piece of imagery is borrowed from this description.
  2. Read Rev. 2:1-7, then discuss the following.
    - The overall encouragement that Jesus gives through Revelation is for his followers to stay the course, in spite of hardship. In the mean time, he offers several specific churches some words of encouragement and correction. In this letter to the church at Ephesus, we see that we to be victorious as we stay the course, we need a person, a posture, and a perspective.
    - In v. 1, we see some imagery from chapter 1. Why is it repeated here? In other words, why are those images particularly important for this church, in light of this letter?
    - Jesus here emphasizes that he “walks among” the churches. In what way might this fact be encouraging to his people? In what way could it be sobering?
      - If you were cognizant that the **person of Jesus** were always walking among our church, every time we gather, how might it impact the way you approach our church gatherings? (Including this group!)
    - The words in the beginning of v. 7—“Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches”—are repeated in each of the seven letters to the churches. Why do you think this is so?
      - Based on this repeated phrase, Pastor Josh said that to be victorious we need a **teachable posture**. Who is someone you know who is very teachable?
      - How easy or difficult do you find it to be teachable, as opposed to defensive? Why do you think that you feel this way?
      - If we are teachable, we will be open to repenting continually. What role has repentance played in your walk with Jesus?
    - Spend some time looking at the specific values that Jesus either affirms or rebukes for the Ephesian churches. Discuss each one, noting how you think Jesus would apply it to our church, or our group:
      - Hard work (any kind of labor that directly involves service to others)
      - Perseverance
      - Protecting the church from false gospels. What false gospels do you think might be a threat in our environment?
      - Enduring hardships for Jesus’ name, without giving up
      - Valuing your “first love.” Jesus probably means abiding in his love such that it overflows in your love for others.

- What eternal **perspective** do you see Jesus offering in the end of v. 7?
  - What allusions do you see here to the Garden of Eden?
  - In what way could this perspective be an encouragement to stay the course faithfully?
  - When have you needed an eternal perspective, and how has it helped you? How might it help you now?

### 3. Prayer

- If you have sensed that Jesus wants to use you to encourage one another today, be sure to offer words of encouragement as you pray.
- If you have sensed that repentance is needed in any of these areas, be sure to offer prayers of repentance.
- Share and pray about whatever other needs and concerns are weighing on your minds.