



COMMUNITY GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Week of 8/17/25

Opener (10 minutes or less)

What's the most interesting thing you've eaten recently?

DISCUSSION (50 minutes or less)

Begin your discussion time in prayer.

Scripture Reading: Revelation 2:8-11

Questions:

1. Jesus introduces Himself to the church in Smyrna as "the first and the last, who died and came to life again." Why is this particular description of Jesus so meaningful for a church that is about to face severe suffering and death?
 2. How can a church be physically poor yet spiritually rich? What are some examples of spiritual riches that might not be visible to the outside world?
 3. Have you ever experienced slander or false accusations because of your faith? How did you handle it?
 4. What does this tell us about the nature of persecution for Christians? How can a community of believers help one another not to fear suffering?
 5. How does this promise of eternal life give perspective to the temporary suffering and even death that the believers in Smyrna would face? What does this "crown of life" mean to you personally?
 6. What is the "second death" in contrast to the first (physical) death, and why is being spared from it the ultimate victory for a believer?
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PERSONAL (30 minutes or less)

1. Oikos - the 8 to 15 people God supernaturally and strategically places in your life. Any oikos moments you would like to share..
2. What is going on in your life (note prayer requests and praise reports)
3. Pray

Revelation 2:8-11

8 “And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write: ‘The words of the first and the last, who died and came to life.

9 “‘I know your tribulation and your poverty (but you are rich) and the slander[a] of those who say that they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan. 10 Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and for ten days you will have tribulation. Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life. 11 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. The one who conquers will not be hurt by the second death.’