

NS LIFE GROUPS

7 Letters (week 2)—Smyrna

Revelation 2:8-11

August 25, 2019

Main Idea: “How do I live by faith when my world is falling apart?”

Icebreaker: What is one of the hardest seasons you have ever walked through in your life? What is/was your relationship with God like during that season?

Study:

Jesus had a message for the church at Smyrna to encourage and challenge them when they were being faced with great suffering and persecution.

Read Revelation 2:8-11 and discuss using the following points and questions.

Three Biblical Keys for Living by Faith When your World is Falling Apart:

- 1. Maintain the right perspective of Jesus! (Rev. 2:8-9)**
 - How does the fact that Jesus is eternal and has existed long before and after your struggle affect how we view difficult circumstances and persecution?
 - How does the fact that Jesus has conquered death affect how we view hard times?
- 2. Maintain a right perspective on suffering! (Rev. 2:10)**
 - How does knowing that suffering ultimately has a God-ordained reason help us trust God?
 - Revelation 2:10 refers to “ten days” which could be literal or symbolic. How does knowing that suffering always has an end date encourage us to have faith when life is hard?
- 3. Keep your eye on the prize! (Rev. 2:10-11)**
 - We get the prize of eternal life and a victor’s crown to cast at the feet of King Jesus one day (Rev. 4:10-11). How does that encourage you when faced with suffering?

Application:

- 1. When you walk through a season of great pain, suffering, or difficulty, what can make it difficult for you to trust God?**
- 2. Which of these truths from this sermon was most impactful and encouraging for you?**
- 3. What step of obedience do you need to take or what change in your thinking do you need to make after this lesson?**

Close your group time with prayer for each other’s prayer requests and with some intentional time of praying that everyone in your group would stand firm and trust God when faced with trials and suffering.