



To the Church in Smyrna | Revelation

2:8-11

January 21 2024

Tips and Tricks:

The sermon notes are designed to be used as a guide for discussion. Don't feel like you have to use every question. Some questions will take a while to work through and others will be over in a few seconds.

Don't teach the lesson. The sermon was just preached. Just ask the questions and let everyone else talk.

Let other people ask questions. It's OK to go "off topic" for a while. Sometimes those conversations are more interesting anyway! Have fun. Don't forget to laugh and crack up. Relationships, not curriculum, are the heartbeat of our ministry. Remember: We have to build a relational bridge strong enough to hold the truth!

Agenda for Group Time

Ice Breaker - Lighthearted ice breaker question (10 minutes)

Discussion - Bible study, sharing and application. (25 Minutes)

Prayer - Pray together (5 minutes)

Planning - Remember to talk about what's coming up.

Icebreaker If you became rich, what is the first thing you would do?

Read Revelation 2:8-11

The Purpose of Persecution

What trials is the church in Smyrna facing? How do these different trials make things harder?

This passage reminds us twice of Satan, the enemy. Once in verse 9, referencing those who serve him and once in verse 10, referencing his activity.

Read 1 Peter 5:8-11

What exhortation does Peter have for the church? What encouragement?

Satan has many tactics by which he attacks believers. Which of these do you see in your life and in the church today?

- Distress like Smyrna- using the threat of prison and persecution to get believers to leave the church
- Dismissal like the garden- telling us our sin isn't as bad as we think; that it really might be better than what God has planned
- Despair like Job- striving to make God seem distant. Using our fallen state to tell us God couldn't look past our sin
- Other: _____

Despite Satan's afflictions, we can be sure that God watches over all things. V10 reminds us that while the sufferings of this world last a while, what is coming is better.

How have you seen affliction grow the confidence of believers?

The Lord of the Persecuted

In each of these passages, Christ introduces Himself in a different way. What does He call Himself here? Why would this be comforting?

Question: when you feel afflicted, which attribute of God brings you the most relief?

- The providence of God- I know its not in my own hands to set things right
- the compassion of God- I know He is with me in my trials
- the power of God- I know that He is able to bring me through anything
- Other: _____

Look again at verse 11. The comfort given by the Spirit is not "this worldly"- it looks forward. What brings comfort when we look to the next life?

- Reuniting with others, and seeing them without the weakness of this world
- The pains and frustrations of this life being no more
- Seeing the whole tapestry- not just my thread
- The fact that it doesn't end
- Other: _____

Above all of these of course, we remember that "the unveiled glories of the deity shall beat upon us, and we for ever sun ourselves in the smiles of God"

Work It Out!

One thing I'll do differently because of this sermon:
