



Revelation 2:1-7 Small Group Discussion Questions

- What comes to mind when you think about the Book of Revelation? What do you know about it?
- What makes Revelation a potentially difficult book to study?
- Have someone read Revelation 1:12-16. Whose words is John recounting in this book? Why is this important to keep in mind?
- Have someone read Revelation 2:1-7. Is this passage what you expected from the Book of Revelation? Why or why not?
- What stands out to you about this passage, on first reading? What strikes you as important?
- Ben said that the “angel” of the church in Ephesus is probably a symbol for the leaders of the church. Why would Jesus address the leaders of the Ephesian church instead of everyone all at once?
- What does Jesus say about Himself in verse 1? What does this tell us about Jesus?
 - Ben said that the seven stars represent the seven “angels” of the churches, and the seven lampstands represent the seven churches themselves. Why do you think Jesus would introduce Himself as the One “who walks among the seven golden lampstands”?
 - Ben taught that this introduction demonstrates that Jesus is with His church; not apart from it. Why does it matter that we, as

members of King's Church, remember that Jesus walks among this church with us?

- How might this knowledge change how we act as members of the church?
- Ben taught that Jesus begins His message to the Ephesians by commending them for the good that they are doing. Looking at verses 2, 3, and 6, what does it seem like the Ephesian church is doing well?
 - Jesus first says that the Ephesians are a *hard-working* church. What does it look like for a church to work hard?
 - What is the proper kind of “hard work” that Christians are called to?
 - What are the signs that a church has grown lazy or idle?
 - Jesus says, second, that the Ephesians are a *faithful* church, meaning that they endure and persevere. What is perseverance? What does perseverance look like in a Christian setting?
 - When have you felt like you've had to persevere through something?
 - How does our faith enable us to persevere beyond our normal abilities?
 - Finally, Jesus commends the Ephesian church for being a *discerning* church, Ben said. The Ephesians “cannot bear with those who are evil,” but care about the truth.
 - What happens when churches cease to care about the church?
 - How can we gauge whether we—as a church and as individual Christians—care about the truth?
 - Jesus says that this church “tested” those who claimed to be apostles, finding them to be false. How do we today “test” doctrine, ideas, and teachings? What should we do when we find something to be false?

- In verse 4, Jesus levels a charge against the Ephesian church. What seems to be the issue that Jesus has with the Ephesians?
 - What do you think it means that the Ephesians have “abandoned the love you have at first”?
 - Does anyone’s Bible translate that verse differently?
 - Ben said that this means that the Ephesians have grown cold, rote, and routine in their love of Jesus. What does it look or feel like for faith to grow cold or routine?
 - What are some causes of this kind of spiritual condition?
 - What is dangerous about a faith that has grown cold?
 - Have you felt this before? When?
 - What does it look like, practically, to protect the love that we have for Jesus from going cold?
- Ben said that Jesus gives a couple of solutions to the church. Reading verse 5, what solutions do you see that could help the Ephesians rekindle their love for Jesus?
 - The first solution, Ben said, is to “remember therefore from where you have fallen”, in other words, to own their sin.
 - Why is it important that we acknowledge sin when we find ourselves in a cold season?
 - What does it mean to own up to our sin in a cold or distant season?
 - What are some things we might need to properly acknowledge that we’re in such a season? How can community help us to realize and acknowledge that we’ve lost our first love?
 - The second solution, Jesus says, is to repent. What is repentance? How would you define it?

- How do we repent as Christians? What are some Biblical examples of repentance?
- What is repentance *not*?
 - How are guilt and shame different from repentance?
 - What separates true repentance from a feeling of “I’ve done something wrong”?
- Why does Jesus say “to do the works that you did at first”? What kind of works do you think Jesus is talking about?
 - What kinds of works help us to rekindle our love for Jesus?
 - Ben mentioned that spiritual disciplines can help us to recapture our love for Jesus when it’s grown cold. What are some spiritual disciplines you know about? How can they help you grow your love for Jesus?
 - What spiritual discipline do you want to work on over the next season of your life?
- What is the reward that Jesus promises to the churches in verse 7?
 - What is the tree of life?
 - Why is the tree of life the reward for church who conquers?
 - How does the cross—the tree of death—lead us to the tree of life?