

Getting to Know Each Other.

*"What is your favorite 'love story' movie or book?"*¹

Follow up. Did you get to share with someone about Jesus this past week?
Or how else did you obey Jesus?

Vision. Jesus told us to "Make Disciples." The purpose of our Life Group is: To help people become Believers in Jesus and grow up to become Disciple Makers.

Bible Study Introduction. In chapters 2 and 3 of Revelation, Jesus speaks to seven different churches. To each church, Jesus describes something about Himself, deals with the spiritual condition of the believers, commands them to listen to (or hear) what the Spirit is saying, and makes a promise to those who overcome. In a sense what Jesus says to these congregations applies to churches in every place and in every age. And to us.

Pray. Before we read the Scripture and discuss it, let's pray that God will speak to each one of us.

Read. Get someone to read **Revelation 2:1-7.**

Discuss these questions, one at a time, encouraging everyone who wants to respond to do so. Remind the group: Keep your answers based just on this passage.

- According to Revelation 1:20, what are the seven stars and the seven lampstands? Who is walking among the churches? Do you believe Jesus is among us right now?
- Jesus begins with words of affirmation in verses 2 and 3 before He says what they need to correct. What are some words you think could be used to describe the kind of love that Jesus wants us to have toward Him? "Passionate," "grateful," etc. What else?
- Read 2 Corinthians 11:3. What was the serpent attempting to draw Eve's heart away from? What are some of ways the serpent tries to distract us from loving Jesus?
- To understand who the "Nicolaitans" in verse 6 were, read Revelation 1:14-16. Like the teaching of Balaam, the Nicolaitans taught it was fine to worship idols and commit sexual sin. Are these still problems today? How would being desperately in love with Jesus keep us away from these sins?
- In John 14:15, Jesus said, "If you love me your will keep my commandments." What are some other ways you could finish this statement: ***If a person really loves Jesus, they will...***
- Read John 21:15-17. What if Jesus were to speak to you tomorrow morning and ask your three times, "Do you love me?" How do you think it would affect the way you would live tomorrow?
- Read Revelation 2:7. What is the Spirit saying to you today?

Obeying Jesus. As disciples of Jesus, we want to follow Jesus in whatever way He is leading us today. We're going to pray silently for 20 seconds. Pray something like this:

"Lord Jesus, what do you want me to do with what You are showing me?" [20 sec. silent prayer]

Closing Pray.^{2,3} "Lord, open our hearts to receive what You want to teach us through the book of Revelation. Prepare the hearts of the people we will be sharing the Good News of Jesus with this week. And give us strength and joy as we follow You. In Jesus' name, Amen."

Notes: 1 Use a different "icebreaker" or leave it out.

2 Pray your own prayer, ask someone else to pray, or open it up for anyone to voice short prayers if time permits.

3 Keep an eye on the time and don't go too long!