

Getting to Know Each Other.

“What is the best tattoo you have seen on someone?”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. One of the churches Jesus speaks to in the book of Revelation is the church in Philadelphia. That’s a city in present day Turkey. Keep in mind that the English word “church” in the Bible does not mean a building where Christians meet. A “Church” is **a group of people who are “called out” to follow Jesus**. The church in Philadelphia was a group that understood that Jesus dearly loved them.

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 3:7-13**.

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.

- Jesus said He has the “Key of David.” Like an apartment manager who has the “master key” that can open or lock every door, this speaks of Jesus’ authority. When was a time Jesus opened a door to bless you or closed a door to protect you?
- Read verse 8. It is to these **weak** but **faithful** followers in Philadelphia that Jesus placed an “open door.” Weakness is not necessarily a bad thing. Someone read 2 Corinthians 12:9. In what way might it be a blessing to be “weak”?
- Back to Revelation 3. Read verse 9. There were some Jews in Philadelphia who slandered the followers of Jesus. But Jesus declares that He loved the people who make up the church. If Jesus was to say to you, “You are one of the ones I love,” what effect would that have on you?
- They say, “Hurt people, hurt people.” It ought to also be true that, “Dearly loved people, love people.” What is something a disciple of Jesus did for you that showed Jesus’ kind of love? (*see John 13:35*)
- What do you think are some reasons why people who know they are deeply loved by Jesus still do and say things that hurt other people?
- Read verse 12. To be a “pillar” in the Temple of God guarantees that you will be as close to God as the pillars in the Temple are to God’s presence. It’s a promise of security and intimacy with God forever. What **“tattoo”** does this verse say you are going to receive in heaven? How does that make you feel?
- What is the Spirit saying to you through these words?

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!