

QUESTIONS

Day 1: Read Commentary Notes

1. What interested you the most and why from the Commentary Notes?
2. What did you learn from the lecture that you found helpful?

Day 2: Read Revelation 1:19-2:3, Matthew 5:14-16, Matthew 25:33, Ephesians 1:20, Hebrews 1:3
[\[Open NIV\]](#) [\[Open NKJV\]](#)

(Note: Ephesus was an urban center of the Roman Empire and was the commercial, political and religious center of Western Asia. Paul labored there for three years and laid the foundation for the strongest church of the first century. The Temple of Diana, one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, was located in Ephesus.)

3. Using verses 19 and 20, answer:
 - A. What did Jesus tell John to do?
 - B. Why do you think Jesus told John to write down what he saw?
 - C. What was the mystery that Jesus told John?
 - D. What do you find significant about 7 churches being addressed? (Hint: The number 7 is used 54 times in Revelation and symbolically stands for God's completeness.)
 - E. **Thought Question:** Why do you think it's meaningful that lampstands stand for (represent) the churches? (Hint: Matthew 5:14-16 might help you answer this question.)
4. **Thought Question:** Using cross references Matthew 25:33, Ephesians 1:20, and Hebrews 1:3, what do you find significant in verse 1 about Jesus holding the seven stars in His right hand?
5. List the things in verses 2 and 3 which Jesus commended the Church in Ephesus.
6. **Personal Question:** From the list you made answering question 5, which characteristic needs improvement in your life and why?

Day 3: Read Revelation 2:4-7, Exodus 20:5, Deuteronomy 32:21, Joshua 24:20, Ezekiel 18:30, Acts 3:19 [\[Open NIV\]](#) [\[Open NKJV\]](#)

7. For what did Jesus rebuke the Church at Ephesus in verse 4?

8. Why was Jesus so offended by this sin? (Hint: Write down something you learn about God's "jealousy" toward his people from the following cross references.)
 - A. Exodus 20:5
 - B. Deuteronomy 32:21
 - C. Joshua 24:20
9. What did Jesus tell the Church at Ephesus was the remedy to their sinfulness in verse 5?
10. According to Ezekiel 18:30 and Acts 3:19, what are the two aspects of repentance? (Hint: Repent was used as a military term for soldiers meaning "about face.")
11. **Personal Question:** Is there any part of your life in which you could be rightly accused of having "forsaken your first love?" If so, what are you willing to do to remedy that? Be prepared to share with your discussion group.
12. **Thought Question:** What do you believe verse 5b means, "If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place?"

Day 4: Read Revelation 2:8-11, Matthew 5:10, John 15:20, 2 Corinthians 12:10, 1 Thessalonians 3:4, 2 Thessalonians 1:4, 2 Timothy 3:12 [\[Open NIV\]](#) [\[Open NKJV\]](#)

(Note: Smyrna was a coastal city some 40 miles north of Ephesus. Emperor worship was prevalent there in the first century and Christians were forced to choose who would be their Lord: Jesus or Caesar. There was also much Jewish hostility aimed at those in this church. Ray Stedman writes, "The name Smyrna means 'myrrh.' It is a fitting name because myrrh is a perfume, the fragrance of which is released by crushing. Here was a church being crushed through persecution.")

13. Using only verse 8, how does Jesus refer to Himself and what does He claim to have done?
14. **Thought Question:** Why would Jesus mentioning His own resurrection be encouraging to a church going through severe persecution?
15. Using verse 9, how is it possible the Church at Smyrna was experiencing affliction and poverty, yet at the same time was called rich by Jesus? Explain this paradox.
16. **Personal Question:** Have you ever experienced persecution because of your faith in and love for Jesus Christ? Describe the situation.

17. What do you learn about persecution from the following cross references?

Matthew 5:10 –

John 15:20 –

2 Corinthians 12:10 –

1 Thessalonians 3:4 –

2 Thessalonians 1:4 –

2 Timothy 3:12 –

Day 5: Read Revelation 2:12-13, Hebrews 4:12, Ephesians 6:10-13 [\[Open NIV\]](#) [\[Open NKJV\]](#)

(Note: The City of Pergamum was known as an intellectual center. It had a 200,000 volume library and a medical center. We get our English word "scalpel" from the pagan Greek god of medicine name Aesculapius. One of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, the great altar of Zeus, the possible reason for Satan's throne reference, was located there.)

18. What was the sharp double edged sword mentioned in verse 12? (Hint: Refer to Hebrews 4:12.)

19. What is the main purpose of the sword of the Spirit, mentioned in Ephesians 6:10-13?

20. For what was the Church at Pergamum commended in verse 13?

21. **Thought Question:** What do you think it means to “remain true to Jesus’ name?”

22. **Personal Question:** Make a list of 5 ways you can remain true to Jesus’ name today.

Day 6: Read Revelation 2:14-17, Isaiah 32:6, Colossians 2:8 [\[Open NIV\]](#) [\[Open NKJV\]](#)

(Note: According to Henry Morris, “The doctrine of Balaam was to gain control over God’s people by seducing them to compromise with the world, especially in sexual sins and going along with those who worshiped false gods.”)

23. Why did Jesus condemn the Church at Pergamum in verse 14?

24. **Thought Question:** Even though we do not know much about the people called the Nicolaitans, we can draw some general conclusion about them from Jesus’ condemnation. Based on that, what is inferred about their life's philosophy?

25. Why is it important to not only believe what is right, but to also reject that which is wrong? (Use Isaiah 32:6 and Colossians 2:8 to develop your answer.)

26. In verse 16 how does Jesus tell the Church at Pergamum to combat the teaching of Balaam and the Nicolaitans?

27. **Personal Question:** How have you ever “fought with the sword” (word of God) in some situation in your life? How did God’s word stand up in that battle?