

**LifeGroup Study Sheet**

October 18th – Revelation of Jesus Christ – Part 4

This study sheet is designed to help prepare you for your group discussion.

**Quick Review**

Look back from your sermon notes – Was there anything that particularly challenged you from this sermon? Anything you didn't understand, agree with or connect with?

**Introduction**

The introduction of the 7 Comparisons of the 7 Churches continues in Chapter 2 with the Church of Smyrna. Pastor Jeff used 7 points to describe this church.

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|-------------------------------------|--|------------------------------|
| 1. City – <b>wealthy – athletic</b> | 4. Compliment – <b>affliction, poverty, rich</b> | 7. Commitment - <b>crown</b> |
| 2. Church - <b>persecuted</b>       | 5. Criticism - <b>none</b>                       |                              |
| 3. Christ – <b>first and last</b>   | 6. Challenge – <b>don't fear, be faithful</b>    |                              |

Jesus describes himself to the church as “the first and the last, who died and came to life.” Why would this description be particularly meaningful to the church in Smyrna?

**Digging In****Read Revelation 2:8-11**

**Question 1:** One of the things known about the ancient city of Smyrna was it was known as a rich city. Archeologists have found many different types of ancient coins and forms of money to prove that the city had wealth. One of the compliments Jesus gives the church that Pastor Jeff points out was the church's material poverty, but spiritual richness (**Rev 2:8**). In a city that was so wealthy, Christians were still very poor. Why do you think this was? How do you think this poverty was directly related to their faith in Jesus? Have you ever experienced “worldly poverty” because of your faith in Jesus? Why or why not?

**Question 2:** The challenge that the church of Smyrna was given was to not be afraid of suffering. **Read II Timothy 2:3-4.** How often throughout your week do you remind yourself that as a Christian, you are “engaged in warfare,” a spiritual battle? How often do you anticipate suffering as a Christ follower because you are in warfare?

**Question 3:** Pastor Jeff talked about the “victor's crown” that Christians will receive if they are faithful (**Rev. 2:10**). **Read 1 Corinthians 9:24-27.** How does the Christian faith resemble a race or an athletic competition? Is this blessing something the compels you to be excited about the future? How does it make you live, here and now?

**Question 4:** Pastor Jeff ended the sermon with the statement “Faithfulness is unquestionable” for those who know Jesus. The story of Polycarp was shared, showing his faithfulness to God in midst of terrible persecution. **Read Psalm 73:25-28.** How does this passage help you understand faithfulness in the light of persecution or affliction? How does a Christian endure such persecution?

### Taking it Home

If Jesus were to direct the apostle John to write a letter to your Christian Life - what might He say?

- How would He remind you of who Jesus is?
- How would He compliment your faith?
- How would He give your critique of your faith?
- How would He challenge your faith?
- How would He encourage you to stay committed in your faith?

### Praise / Prayer Requests

Pray for your group with these things in mind:

**Adoration** – How can I praise God for what this teaches me?

**Confession** – What sin can I confess because of what this teaches me?

**Thanksgiving** – How can I thank God for what Jesus has done?

**Supplication** – What do I need to ask of God in order to grow in light of this?

