



GROWTH GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

“Return to Your First Love”

For the Week of October 8th, 2017



Revelation 2:1-7 (ESV)

1 “To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: ‘The words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand, who walks among the seven golden lampstands.

2 “I know your works, your toil and your patient endurance, and how you cannot bear with those who are evil, but have tested those who call themselves apostles and are not, and found them to be false. 3 I know you are enduring patiently and bearing up for my name’s sake, and you have not grown weary. 4 But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first. 5 Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent, and do the works you did at first. If not, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent. 6 Yet this you have: you hate the works of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. 7 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who conquers I will grant to eat of the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.’

SUNDAY MORNING OUTLINE

A. Description of Jesus (Rev 2:1; 1:20)

1. Jesus _____ the church
2. Jesus _____ for the church (Eph 5:29)

B. Commendation (Rev 2:2,3,6)

1. Hard _____ (Eph 2:10)
2. Patient _____ in service and suffering (Mark 4:16,17)
3. _____ of evil (Isa 5:20; Amos 5:15; Rom 12:9)
4. _____ of false teaching (2 Cor 11:13-15; 1 John 4:1-3)

C. Accusation: They _____ their _____ (Rev 2:4; Jer 2:1-2; Hos 6:4)

D. Command: _____, _____, and _____ to the love you once had (Rev 2:5; Deut 4:30; Isa 55:7)

E. Warning: If the local church refuses to _____, Jesus will _____ the church (Rev 2:5)

F. Promise to the true believer: _____ (Rev 2:7; Rom 8:37; Gen 3:22)

GROWTH GROUP WELCOME

Why did you begin attending UBC?

WORD

1. Is it possible to work hard in church ministry without loving the Lord? How?
2. What's the difference between simply "enduring" and "patiently enduring" in service and suffering (Rev 2:2)?
3. How can you be tolerant of people, while being intolerant of the actions that God's Word defines as evil?
4. How can you become more discerning when it comes to false teaching? (see Heb 5:11-14)
5. What happens when a person abandons their love of Jesus?
6. Define "repent."
7. The Ephesian church was commanded to remember, repent, and return to their love of Jesus. When you drift away from the Lord, what are some specific actions you need to take to return to your "first love" of Jesus?
8. What are some symptoms of a church that is abandoning their love of Jesus?
9. Are there areas where UBC is at risk of "abandoning our first love"? If so, what steps do we need to take to remember, repent and return?

PRAYER

- Thank God for His love for us (1 John 4:7-10)
- Ask God to bless you as we study the letters to the seven churches of Revelation (Rev 1:3).
- Ask God to bless UBC as we study the letters to the seven churches of Revelation...
 - To show us what we are doing well.
 - To convict us of what needs to change.
- Ask God to help you love Him with all your heart, soul, mind and strength (Mark 12:30).
- Ask God to help UBC to be motivated by love for God in everything that we do.
- Thank God for his promise that believers will spend eternity with Him.