

Small Group Discussion Questions

RENEWING OUR CHURCH'S MISSION – NO. 2 “Renewing Our Love for Christ” – Revelation 2:1-7

Theme: *Jesus loves us and thinks we should love Him!*

Can you imagine a church that is well known for its commitment becoming stagnant and indifferent to Christ? Perhaps it remains doctrinally sound, evangelistically active and socially responsible, but its orthodoxy and activities are no longer maintained out of a deep devotion to the Lord. Do you know a church like this? Has your own fire for Christ died out in any way?

Believers in the church of Ephesus allowed their flame to grow cold, and Jesus confronted them about it in no uncertain terms. However, with characteristic kindness, He also provided them with a solution. If we, to any degree, have lost the fire for Christ, we can find the fuel for rekindling it in His letter to the church of Ephesus.

Gathering Together (Icebreaker)

Describe a “first love,” someone you were attracted to perhaps back in elementary school. Did the romance/relationship last? Why or why not?

Growing Together (Truth/Equipping)

Read Revelation 2:1-7:

1. In chapter 2:1, Jesus describes Himself as He “*who holds the seven stars in His right hand, who walks among the seven golden lampstands.*”

- What are “the seven stars”?
- What is the significance of these stars being held in Jesus’ right hand?
- What are “the seven golden lampstands” (see 1:20)?
- What is the significance of Jesus walking among these lampstands?

2. The sermon mentioned 4 specific ways for us to stay close to Christ. The first of these is to *listen to Him* by reading and reflecting on Scripture, spending time in prayer, and obeying the promptings of His Spirit.

- Have you found a particular Bible reading plan to be helpful? If so, share it with the group.
- Do you use a particular study Bible that you have found helpful? If so, which one? Would you recommend it to others? Why?

3. From vss.2-3 and 6, what is there about the church of Ephesus that Jesus commends?
4. In spite of Jesus’ strong words of commendation, there was one major issue He had to address with this church. What was it? See 2:4.
5. What might cause a once active, persevering, doctrinally sound church to become spiritually distant and cold toward Jesus?
6. According to verse 5, what action steps do we need to take in order to return to a close relationship with Jesus? [Hint: each begins with the letter “R.”]
7. According to vss.5b and 7b, what motives does Jesus present to encourage us to return to Him?

Getting Real Together (Accessibility)

1. When and how did Jesus come to mean more to you than just a name?
2. The sermon mentioned 4 ways to stay close to Jesus. Of these 4, is there one that is particularly challenging for you?
3. How would you describe your present relationship to Jesus Christ? Do you love Him with all your heart? Is He #1? If not, what needs to change?

Praying Together (Supplication)

1. Praise God for the individuals He has brought together in your group and that the group will be accepting, loving and a means of spiritual growth.
2. Pray that each person in your group, by God’s grace, will grow in his or her love for Jesus.