

## Community Group Discussion Questions

### RENEWING THE CHURCH'S MISSION – NO. 8 “Renewing Our Commitment” – Revelation 3:14-22

**Theme:** *How do we replace comfortable, complacent Christianity with a vibrant commitment?*

In this letter to the church in Laodicea, Jesus calls us to replace complacency with commitment. The city of Hierapolis, six miles north of Laodicea, was famous for its hot springs. The water traveled down a plateau to an open area just outside Laodicea, but by then it was lukewarm. At Colosse, ten miles south, the water was cold. It was brought by aqueduct to Laodicea, but this water was also lukewarm and nauseating.

The church, founded years before (probably by Epaphras; Col.4:12-16) was now, like the city, “*neither cold nor hot.*” How do we replace lukewarm Christianity with a vibrant, growing, ongoing commitment? This letter draws attention to five action steps.

### Gathering Together (Icebreaker)

Growing up, what extracurricular activity did you enjoy participating in that required commitment and discipline? If the activity required practice and perseverance, why did you enjoy it?

### Growing Together (Truth/Equipping)

Read Revelation 3:14-22:

1. Laodicea was famous for its banking center, its medical center, which produced a popular eye salve, and its textile industry, which produced wool garments. The pride of the city spread into the church. How would you describe Jesus' description of the spiritual condition of the church in Laodicea?
2. At one point, Jesus describes this church as neither cold nor hot. He says, “*I wish you were either one or the other.*” Why does Jesus feel so strongly about so-called lukewarm Christianity?

3. Are “lukewarm Christians” really Christians? To help in answering the question, consider what Jesus says will be the consequence of complacency. See vs.16.
4. Jesus uses a common picture of opening a door (vs.20) to describe how He patiently knocks seeking entrance into our lives. What will happen if we open the door to Him? What will He do to us? What benefit will we receive?

## Getting Real Together (Accessibility)

1. If lukewarm water makes us nauseous, imagine what lukewarm Christianity does to Christ! In the chart below, rate yourself with regard to our 5 God-given life purposes, from ice cold (give yourself a 1 or 2) to on fire (9 or 10):

Activities	My Score
1. I'm actively involved in sharing my faith through evangelism, missions and ministries of compassion	
2. I'm actively making time for personal and corporate worship.	
3. I'm actively reading God's Word, spending time in prayer, and participating in a Community Group to grow in my faith.	
4. I'm actively using my gifts and talents to serve in the church.	
5. I'm actively spending time connecting with other believers for mutual encouragement and support.	

2. This letter draws attention to 5 action steps that are designed to replace comfortable, complacent Christianity with a vibrant commitment.
  - What are the 5 action steps? (Hint: review your sermon notes.)
  - Is there one, especially, that you think would be of help to you in addressing or preventing any signs of complacency? Which one? Why did you select this action step?

## Praying Together (Supplication)

Close your time together by praying together for strength and discipline to carry out any needed action steps to replace complacency with a vibrant commitment. Pray that the same commitment would characterize our entire church.