

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

For the week of July 9-15, 2023

“PERGAMUM: THE COMPROMISED CHURCH”

GETTING STARTED

To the facilitator: Use this section to introduce the topic. If possible, give a brief recap of the sermon.

Share a memorable point, a spiritual lesson, a personal application, a question, or something that challenged you from the sermon last Sunday.

Is there a destination that you've been dreaming of visiting for a long time? What fascinates you about it?

GROUP DISCUSSION

Read Revelations 2:12-17

1. In the letter to the church in Pergamum, Jesus commends them for holding fast to His name and not denying the faith. What does it mean to "hold fast" to Jesus' name? How can we apply this principle in our lives and church community?
2. Jesus mentions the "throne of Satan" and the presence of false teachings in the church of Pergamum. How do you think false teachings can infiltrate the church today? How can we guard against false teachings and ensure that we remain true to the teachings of Jesus?
3. The church in Pergamum is rebuked for tolerating those who hold to the teachings of Balaam and the Nicolaitans. What would be a modern-day example of that? How does tolerating false teachings affect the spiritual health of a church? How can we address and confront false teachings lovingly?
4. Jesus promises a reward to those who overcome and conquer. What do you think it means to "overcome" in the context of this letter? How can we encourage and support one another in our spiritual battles and help each other overcome the challenges we face?
5. *Application.* Consider the media you consume, such as movies, TV shows, music, books, entertainment, including social media. Are there any forms that subtly or overtly compromise your Christian values? How can a Christian make intentional choices to engage with media that aligns with your faith?

6. *Application.* Reflect on your financial stewardship. Are there areas where your spending habits compromise your Christian values, such as materialism or lack of generosity? How can you align your financial decisions with biblical principles?

7. NEXT STEPS

Jesus calls us to be faithful followers, not flexible compromisers.

- I will remain steadfast in my devotion to Christ, even in the face of adversity.
- I will not allow my faith to be compromised.
- I repent of the ways I have compromised my faith.
- I will stand in the assurance of Jesus, that his presence with always be with me.

Don't forget to:

- Go through the devotionals every day this week.
- Have a regular daily time of prayer and reading of God's Word.

CLOSING THE SESSION

Close the session by taking the time to pray for one another. Consider the following as you pray:

- Pray for discernment to recognize false teachings and deceptive influences that may lead you astray from God's truth.
- Pray for a life of repentance.
- Pray for relationships to grow with other Christ-followers, that you will encourage and care for one another.
- Pray for your unsaved family, friends, and loved ones.
- Pray for protection, provision, healing and comfort for everyone who's going through physical, emotional, mental and spiritual pain.

BIBLE READING GUIDE

July 10	Genesis 3:1-7
July 11	2 Corinthians 10
July 12	Hosea 7:3-12
July 13	Romans 5:12-21
July 14	1 Corinthians 2:9-16
July 15	2 Corinthians 8:1-9
July 16	Revelations 2:18-29