

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

For the week of July 16-22, 2023

“THYATIRA: THE TOLERANT 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.

As a kid when you were asked what you wanted to be when you grow up, what was your answer? How similar or different is it from today?

GROUP DISCUSSION

Read Revelations 2:18-29

1. What significance do you see in Jesus' description of himself as the Son of God with blazing eyes and burnished bronze feet? How might the imagery of blazing eyes and burnished bronze feet relate to Jesus' authority and discernment? How does the letter emphasize the importance of repentance?
2. How does it feel to know that Jesus sees and knows your deeds - love, faith, service, and perseverance? Of the four areas mentioned, which one resonates with you the most personally? Are there any areas in your life where you feel called to do more for God and others? How can you take steps to fulfill that calling?
3. When you think of Jezebel, what immediately comes to your mind? What does it mean for a church or individual believers to "tolerate" someone like Jezebel? How do you think did their tolerance turn into compromise?
4. Have you ever encountered teachings or influences (personally or in the church) that misled you or others into compromising biblical principles? In what areas of your life might you be tempted to tolerate or rationalize behaviors or beliefs that are contrary to God's Word?

5. *Application.* In what ways do you see the love and justice of God reflected in his response to Jezebel's actions? How can we strike a balance between extending grace and offering correction to those who may be promoting false teachings or engaging in immoral behavior within the church?
6. *Application.* Reflect on the importance of upholding sound doctrine and resisting compromise. How can you personally be intentional about studying and applying God's Word in your life?
7. **NEXT STEPS**
The world promotes tolerance, the Christian persists in truth.
 - I will cultivate love, faith, service and perseverance.
 - I will not allow my faith to be compromised.
 - I repent of the ways I have compromised my faith.
 - I will hold on and anchor my life in Jesus and his Word.

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 for the church leaders and teachers to protect the congregation from false teachings and immoral influences.
- Pray for discernment and wisdom to recognize false teachings and practices that may deceive and lead you astray.
- 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 17 Ephesians 6
July 18 Zephaniah 1:1-6; 2:1-3
July 19 Exodus 17:8-13
July 20 Psalms 115
July 21 1 Peter 4:8-11
July 22 Matthew 6:1-7
July 23 Revelations 3:1-6