

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

For the week of August 13-19, 2023

“LAODICEA: THE LUKEWARM 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.

If you suddenly became blind for a day, what three major challenges do you think you'd face?

GROUP DISCUSSION

Read Revelations 3:14-22

1. What does Jesus' description about himself in verse 14 tell you about his character? How does this inspire you? How does it influence your perspective of this world and your place in it?
2. How would you describe a “lukewarm” church? On a scale of 1-10 (1=not lukewarm, 10=very lukewarm), how lukewarm are you? What one area of your life have you become complacent in, and what take steps should you take in order to get out of being lukewarm?
3. How does the analogy of being “spit out” of Jesus' mouth impact your understanding of the consequences of spiritual lukewarmness? What lessons can we draw from this imagery for our own spiritual lives?
4. Why is there a disconnect between the church's perception of their own condition (“rich and not needing anything”) and Jesus' assessment of their true state (“wretched, pitiful, poor, blind, and naked”)? How can this message apply to our own spiritual blindness, self-awareness and spiritual evaluation?
5. What is the problem of wealth? Can you share specific examples in your own life where this became a spiritual issue?
6. What does it mean to you that Jesus rebukes and disciplines those he loves? How does this aspect of God's character reflect his care for our spiritual growth? Think about times when you've experienced God's discipline or correction. How did your experiences contribute to your spiritual growth and maturity?

7. Reflect on the intimate act of sharing a meal with someone. How does this imagery enhance your understanding of the depth of relationship Jesus desires with us? Are there areas of pride, resistance, or fear that might be preventing you from fully opening the door of your heart to Jesus?

8. NEXT STEPS

What Jesus offers is more valuable in comparison to anything we can gain on our own or anything this world can give.

- I will not be a lukewarm Christian.
- I will not allow this world's blessings to blind me from my need of Christ.
- I will respond to Jesus' knock by inviting him into my life and fellowshiping with him.

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 to live a passionate life for Christ and a closer relationship with him.
- 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

August 14	Matthew 5
August 15	John 21:17-25
August 16	Romans 6:1-14
August 17	Isaiah 46:3-10
August 18	Acts 8:26-35
August 19	Daniel 6
August 20	Luke 12:16-21