



to the church

September – October Teaching Series



Group Guide

A Study on the Word of Jesus to the
7 Churches of Revelation

Ephesus

Week 2

Reflect

ABBALOE

Take some time to process together as a group:

- How is your soul doing?
- Where did you feel God most present and distant this week?
- What is one spiritual practice that has been lifegiving for you this week?

Overview

The church in Ephesus was a real community of believers living in a city shaped by strong cultural, religious, and economic influences. Following Jesus could create tension with the surrounding culture, and the church experienced hardship and opposition because of its faith.

Jesus' message to Ephesus reminds us that it is possible to be faithful in our work, passionate about truth, and committed to the church while slowly losing the love that should shape our lives together. Jesus calls the church to remember, repent, and return—not simply to recover an emotional feeling from the past, but to return to a life where love for God and love for others are actively practiced. Their faithfulness to truth was not the problem; Jesus wanted their truth to be expressed through love.

For us today, the letter to Ephesus raises an important question: What can we leave behind while we're busy keeping everything going? Jesus invites us to examine not only what we are doing for Him, but who we are becoming in the process.



Reading

Open Your Bible and Take Turn Reading From
Revelation 2:1-7

Pay attention to:

4 Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken the love you had at first. 5 Consider how far you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first. If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place.

Discussion

When you hear the phrase “first love,” what do you naturally think of?

What are some ways we can continue doing “good Christian things” while our love for God or people becomes diminished?

Why is it sometimes easier to be passionate about being “right” than being loving?

What does loving someone look like when we don't agree with them?

What is something God might be trying to teach you through the people in this group?

What makes it difficult to receive correction from people who love us?

What did love once move me to do that I have stopped doing?

If you're comfortable sharing, what is one thing you sense God inviting you to return to?



Practice

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What is Your One Step?

"This week I will return to love by . . ."

Go around and have everyone share what something specific they want to practice this week

Examples:

- Apologizing without defending myself
- Making time to listen to someone
- Reaching out to someone I've avoided
- Spending intentional time with Jesus
- Forgiving someone
- Asking someone I trust for correction
- Putting my phone away and being present
- Praying for my neighbor
- Having a difficult but loving conversation

Closing Prayer

"Holy Spirit, help us return to You with honesty. Teach us to receive Your love and extend it to one another. Give us courage to apologize, receive correction, forgive, listen, and follow through with obedience. Form us into a people whose life together helps our neighbors recognize Jesus. Teach us to remain faithful to Your truth while becoming people deeply formed by Your love. Amen."

Further Resources

Watch: To the Church Teaching Series – Abbalove Church

Watch: Revelation Teaching Series (2026) – Abbalove Church

Read: Revelation for the rest of us – Scot McKnight

Read / Listen: 5 Strategies for reading revelation – Bible Project





Dear Church



**"Write on the scroll what you
see and send it to the church"**

- Jesus

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