



to the church

September – October Teaching Series



Group Guide

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

Smyrna

Week 3

Reflect

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

In Revelation 2:8–11, Jesus speaks to the church in Smyrna, a community experiencing affliction, poverty, opposition, and the threat of persecution. Yet Jesus does not rebuke them; instead, He reminds them that He knows what they are carrying and calls them to remain faithful.

This message invites us to consider how fear, disappointment, and suffering can pressure our obedience, while reminding us that faithfulness does not mean life will always become easier. Because Jesus died and rose again, our confidence rests not in knowing what will happen next, but in knowing who holds our lives. As we reflect on Smyrna, we are invited to honestly bring our fears and struggles to Jesus, ask what faithfulness looks like in our present circumstances, and become a community that helps one another carry the cost of following Him.



Reading

ABBALOE

Open Your Bible and Take Turn Reading From

Revelation 2:8-11

“To the angel of the church in Smyrna write: These are the words of him who is the First and the Last, who died and came to life again. 9 I know your afflictions and your poverty—yet you are rich! I know about the slander of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan. 10 Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you, the devil will put some of you in prison to test you, and you will suffer persecution for ten days. Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you life as your victor’s crown. 11 Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. The one who is victorious will not be hurt at all by the second death.

Discussion

What stands out to you about Jesus saying, “I know”?

Why can it be difficult to be honest with God about our suffering, disappointment, or fear?

What is the difference between feeling afraid and allowing fear to make our decisions?

What does it mean to trust Jesus even when He doesn't answer our prayers in the way we hoped?

How does Jesus' own death and resurrection give us confidence when we face suffering?

How can we support someone without trying to immediately “fix” them?

Can you think of a situation where doing the right thing might come with a cost? What might faithfulness look like in that situation?



Prayer Practice: Examen

Come to a place of honesty with God. Be still, breathe and come back to yesterday. Answer these questions with God:

1. Trace your day back and reflect on what happened yesterday
2. Where did God feel most present yesterday?
3. Where did God feel most distant yesterday?

Close with asking him if there's anything he wants to say to you.

Closing Prayer

"Jesus, You are the First and the Last. You are the One who died and came to life again. You know what we are carrying.

Teach us to bring You our honest hearts without allowing fear to decide our obedience. Give courage to those facing pressure and strength to those who are tired. Form us into a church that doesn't only tell people to remain faithful, but helps one another carry the cost of faithfulness. When we cannot see what comes next, remind us that our lives are held by the risen Jesus.

The pressure does not have the final word. The pain does not have the final word. Even death does not have the final word. Jesus does. Keep us faithful, even here. 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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