

WEEK THREE

PERGAMUM: LIVE HOLY

GETTING STARTED

Choose one of the following discussion starters:

- Are you naturally a rule breaker or a rule keeper? What challenges come from your disposition?
- Do you tend to be part of the in crowd or on the outside looking in? Explain.

Read Revelation 2:12-17.

I AM . . .

He who has a sharp two-edged sword. In Revelation 2:12 Jesus says, "And to the angel of the church in Pergamum write: 'The words of him who has the sharp two-edged sword.'"

See page 63 for more insight.

- In our Monday devotional for this week, J. K. references Hebrews 4:12, which describes the Word of God as "living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing. . . ." He then says, "The Word is a game changer" (p. 64). Is there a Scripture passage that has been a game changer for you?
- *The Word* is a title for both Scripture and the Son of God. Jesus gets to the heart of the matter with us and exposes intentions and attitudes, authentic and counterfeit. With this in mind, take a moment to invite him into your group discussion through prayer.

Watch the video for week three.

I KNOW . . .

Where you dwell (Revelation 2:13).

See page 65 for more insight.

- Pergamum's culture was filled with pagan altars, empire worship and self-indulgent practices. While much has changed in the past two thousand years, this may sound familiar!
- What are some of the challenges of living in our culture today?
- What comfort can we take from knowing that Jesus knows where we dwell?

I HAVE . . .

This against you: You hold to false teaching (Revelation 2:14-15).

See page 67 and our video teaching for more insight.

- As noted in our Wednesday devotional, "A colossal tug of war was underway between the genuine teaching of Christ and the false teaching of the enemy" (p. 67). What false teachings do we hear today?
- What responsibility do we have to ourselves and to others regarding sound biblical teaching in our personal devotions, our small group and our church?

I SAY . . .

Live holy (Revelation 2:16).

See page 69 for more insight.

- In Thursday's devotional, we read, "Repentance is neither selective nor exclusive. It is not a one-time action. It is an ongoing readjustment or realignment with the person of Christ" (p. 69). As a group, identify a few passages that address a call for repentance (holy living).
- In our video teaching today, Mike encouraged us toward holy living in five areas:

1. emotions
2. sexuality
3. marriages
4. speech
5. those who hurt us

In your opinion, which of these areas is most challenging for the average Christian? More specifically, which is most challenging for you today?

I WILL . . .

Come soon and war against you (Revelation 2:16).

See page 71 for more insight.

- Is there a more unnerving statement than this in all of Scripture? Let's not rush to the "I Promise" section before reflecting on this sobering statement. This statement adds weight and urgency to the "I Say" statement that precedes it!
- Is it possible that we disregard such warnings in our society? In the church? How do you reconcile the judgment of God with the grace of God?
- In the video teaching today, J. K. provokes some self-examination with this question: "Have I said anything, heard anything, seen anything or done anything that dishonors Jesus?" Take a moment to quietly reflect on this as a group. Consider placing these questions in your Bible for regular reflection.

I PROMISE . . .

Hidden manna and a white stone (Revelation 2:17).

See page 73 for more insight.

- The recipients of this white stone can rest in the truth of Colossians 1:21-22, which says, "You, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, he has now reconciled in his

body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him.”

- With these promises in mind, pray together as a group, committing to the pursuit of holiness, guarding against false teaching and eagerly anticipating the things that await those who trust Jesus.