

# WEEK SEVEN

## LAODICEA: BE ZEALOUS

### GETTING STARTED

Choose one of the following discussion starters:

- If you had to be a member of a fan club, which one would you join?
- Would you rather eat cold pizza or hot fruit?

Pray as a group, asking the Lord to speak to the heart of each member of the group today.

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*Read Revelation 3:14-22.*

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*Watch the video for week seven.*

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### I AM . . .

The Amen. In Revelation 3:14 Jesus says, "And to the angel of the church in Laodicea write: 'The words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of God's creation.'"

*See page 148 for more insight.*

- In Revelation 3:14, Jesus says of himself:
  1. I am the Amen.
  2. I am the faithful and true witness.
  3. I am the beginning of God's creation.
- Why do you think he reveals himself in this way to the church of Laodicea?
- Which of these is most timely and helpful for you today?

## **I KNOW . . .**

Whether you are hot or cold (Revelation 3:15).

*See page 150 for more insight.*

- Why does Jesus seem to prefer cold rather than lukewarm people?
- What insights were most helpful from Mike's video teaching on this subject?
- What is the temperature of your relationship with Christ? In order to better answer this question, consider the following questions from our Tuesday devotional this week. J. K. asks,
  1. Is Jesus the absolute boss of my life?
  2. Have I surrendered to him?
  3. Does my life indicate a persistent, ever-forming, constantly growing, intimate relationship with him?
  4. Am I all in?

## **I HAVE . . .**

This against you: You say, "I am rich" (Revelation 3:17).

*See page 152 for more insight.*

### ***The People of Laodicea Say***

I am rich

I have prospered

I need nothing

### ***Jesus Says***

you are wretched

you are pitiable

you are poor, blind and naked

What would those in our church say? What would Jesus say?

- Read Matthew 6:19-24 as a group. How might this passage address the Laodicean culture and our own?
- Read Luke 12:16-21 as a group. How are we tempted to think and act like this rich man? As you consider an answer to this question, review these quotes from our video teaching:
  1. "Affluence can equal indifference."
  2. "Affluence can elbow out Jesus."

## **I SAY . . .**

Be zealous (Revelation 3:19).

*See page 154 for more insight.*

- As a group, reread Revelation 3:18-19. Notice the following:
  1. The church of Philadelphia needs to overcome their weakness. The church of Laodicea needs to overcome their strength (self-sufficiency).
  2. Philadelphia was encouraged to “hold fast” to Christ. Laodicea is encouraged to let go (repent) of the things that keep them from zealously trusting and loving Christ.
  3. Zeal for God and repentance are two sides of the same coin.
- Many in our culture try to add Jesus to their lives as a life-enhancement resource rather than the central and zealous love of their lives.
- What self-sufficiencies do you need to let go of?
- “The kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it” (Matthew 13:45-46). How do you compare or contrast with this merchant?

## **I WILL . . .**

Spit you out of my mouth (Revelation 3:16).

*See page 156 for more insight.*

- In this week’s chapter we read, “Many in our society are spitting the church out of their mouths. They too have found that those who claim Jesus as Lord are not living as though he is, and that is sickening. In other words, the way we live out our faith is the best opportunity for others to taste and see that the Lord is good. This is the zealous life that Jesus is imploring his church to embrace” (p. 142).
- How can this group live out the faith in a way that is either refreshing or healing?

## **I PROMISE . . .**

To come in (Revelation 3:20-21).

*See page 158 for more insight.*

- Jesus is Lord of the church, the first and last, he who has a sharp, two-edged sword, the Son of God, alert, holy and true, and the Amen. Yet he stands at our door and patiently knocks. Does this amaze you? How would you describe your response to his knocking?
- In each of the letters to the churches Jesus helps us see that we can be conquerors. As you close in prayer, keep these promises in mind and encourage one another by reading Romans 8:31-39.
- Continue in community.

See appendix three for an optional eighth week of study on this topic.