



Revelation 2:1-17  
September 1 | Group Guide

Begin your group time in prayer. Ask for the Lord to help each of you take his word into your life. Then, read **Revelation 2:1-17**.

[After reading, watch the Week 3 life group introductory video on Revelation.](#)

Questions to ask:

- When was a time someone encouraged you and that encouragement really strengthened you?
- When was a time when someone critiqued you and it really brought you down?

**Break into smaller groups for deeper discussion (30 minutes).**

- Take a moment to think through the four things that Emerson told you to look for in these verses:
  - What do you learn about Jesus from the messages to these three churches?
  - What sorts of commendations does Jesus give these churches?
  - What sorts of critique does Jesus give these churches?
  - What promises does Jesus give to those who will conquer?

- Now, take a few moments to apply this to your own life. If Jesus were to write a message to you, what aspects of his identity would he emphasize? What commendations would he give you? What areas of critique might he have for you? What promises would you want to hear from him? Explain.
- In his sermon, Emerson talked about how we sometimes need the encouragement that Jesus is standing in solidarity with us. In what ways are you in need of that encouragement today?
- In his sermon, Emerson quoted Brennan Manning who talked about our culture's tendency to "domesticate the lion of Judah." Do you see this in our culture? In your own life? How does this manifest itself?
- Many of these churches were struggling to persevere in their faith - adversaries, spiritual warfare, persecution, culture seduction were hard to endure. Are there any places you're struggling to remain steadfast and faithful to Jesus? Are there any areas where it feels like the world is more appetizing than the Lord? Explain.
- Re-examine Jesus' words to the churches in Revelation 2:1-17. What commendation would Jesus give our church? What kind of critique might he give our church? How can you play a part in helping The Creek continue in the good and grow out of the bad?

**Come back together as a large group and then split into triads for prayer requests and prayer (10 minutes).**

Like last week, split your group into mixed triads as you wrap up. In each triad, have people share their prayer requests. Once everyone has finished sharing, each person should then pray for the person on their right until everyone in the triad group is prayed for.

**Finish with logistics (5 minutes).**

Make sure to inform your group about the study devotionals available to help you walk through our Revelation series! You can find that material here at [thecreek.org/devotionals](http://thecreek.org/devotionals).