

## LETTER 3 **PERGAMUM**



# SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE PERGAMUM: **THE COMPROMISING CHURCH**

Revelation 2:12-17

## **WORSHIP**

**Read Psalm 96 aloud.**

Take a few minutes to meditate upon God's word, here in this psalm.

## **FELLOWSHIP**

Have you written a letter to God or to a hurting person yet? What was that like?

Is there anything you can do this week to encourage a friend, neighbor or co-worker to draw closer to God?

## **DISCUSSION**

Pastor Mike presented a message about the letter written to the church in Pergamum. This was the third of seven letters written by Jesus (penned by John the Apostle) to churches in Asia Minor in the late first century. The city of Pergamum was a center of education, political authority and pagan worship. The library, with some 200,000 books, was second only to Alexandria, Egypt in size. Pergamum was the home of emperor worship, a site for the worship of countless Greek and Roman gods, and a locale for satanic practices.

## Read Revelation 2:12-17

1. What is symbolized by the sharp, double-edged sword in **verse 12**? For clues, refer to **Hebrews 4:12** and **Ephesians 6:17**.

2. Where does Jesus say they live (**verse 13**)? What might He mean by that?

3. Jesus refers to Antipas (a martyr) as His faithful witness.

Can you imagine willingly suffering death for your faith in Christ?

Have you ever taken a stand to declare your faith in the face of opposition?

4. What does Christ rebuke the church in Pergamum for (**verses 14-15**)?

What do you think He means?

Why does Christ call them to repent (**verse 16**)?

5. What does the challenge of overcoming or being victorious mean in this passage (**verse 17**)?

How do you understand the hidden manna, white stone, and new name?

How do you hear these promises today?

6. What are some temptations to worldly compromise faced by the church today, or by you personally? How do we stand up to such temptations?

## LETTER WRITING CHALLENGE

Write a letter to your future self about the cultural challenges of the present moment.

## PRAYER

Ask for prayer requests.

Pray for group members, the church, and our nation. Consider beginning this time of prayer by having someone read **Psalm 100** aloud, and then pray it back to the Lord something like this:

*Heavenly Father,*

*We shout to You with hearts of gratitude and joy;*

*We worship You with joyful songs of praise.*

*Lord, You are the Great I Am, who created us,*

*And we are Yours, in Christ Jesus.*

*We come before Your throne of grace with thanksgiving,*

*And we praise Your holy name.*

*Lord, You alone are good,*

*And Your love has no end.*

*Your faithfulness continues through all generations,*

*And Your glorious Spirit is our counselor and comforter in this broken world.*

*We thank You now in the precious name of Jesus.*