

LETTER 7 LAODICEA



SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE LAODICEA: **THE LUKEWARM CHURCH**

Revelation 3:14-22

WORSHIP

Read Psalm 113 aloud, carefully and slowly. Take a moment to focus on God and leave behind the distractions and concerns of this week, even if just for a moment.

FELLOWSHIP

How have you been applying insights from the Letters from God series to your daily lives? Have you seen changes or new fruit in the past weeks?

DISCUSSION

Like the other letters, the Laodicean church was in Western Turkey, and the Christians in the city were struggling to live out their faith, without compromise, in a city full of pagan religious and social practices.

But Laodicea was also its own city. Life in Laodicea was not quite like life in Philadelphia, or Smyrna, or Sardis. So, Jesus tells the Laodiceans some things that they would really understand. You can learn more about the city on pages 22-23 in the Letters from God guide [here](#).

1. **Read Revelation 3:14-17 aloud.** What stands out to you in these verses? What do you think Jesus is saying to the Laodiceans?

2. **Read Revelation 3:18-22 aloud.** What stands out to you in these verses? What do you think Jesus is saying to the Laodiceans?

3. Biblical scholar Craig R. Koester finds the following literary structure in this passage which helps frame its themes:

Sovereignty: Christ is the faithful witness and ruler of God's creation.

Dining: Christ will spit the lukewarm out of his mouth.

Prosperity: They think they are wealthy but are poor, blind, and naked.

Prosperity: They are to obtain gold, eye salve, and clothing from Christ.

Dining: Christ will eat with those who open the door to him.

Sovereignty: Christ's faithful followers will share a place on Christ's throne.¹

- **Sovereignty** - Is Jesus still sovereign today? How is he in charge? What does it mean that faithful followers will "sit with me (Jesus) on my throne"?
- **Dining** - Jesus invites us to passionate, not lukewarm, fellowship with Him. What stops us from opening the door? Why do we hold back from living life with Him?
- **Prosperity** - What does Jesus promise to give Christians? If we are faithful, will he just give us anything we want to have? Could there be a deeper meaning to these verses than just material blessings?

4. Based on this passage and everything the group has discussed so far, how is God directing you to better follow Jesus this week?

5. What is one thing you want to remember from this Letters from God series?

LETTER WRITING CHALLENGE

Write a letter of personal commitment and challenge to yourself.

Put it in a stamped, sealed envelope with your address on it and drop it off at your campus or mail it to 100 N. Waukegan Rd. Lake Forest, IL 60045.

In a month, we will mail it back to you!

PRAYER

Ask for prayer requests; try to remember any needs that came up during the fellowship or discussion time. Check in on requests from last week, if you can. Does anyone have a practical need that another group member may be able to help with?

Pray for group, church, and community needs.