

# THE **crossing** **small groups**

## A Spiritual Examination – Revelation 2:1-7

**Purpose of Discussion:** To conduct a spiritual examination of our lives and discuss how Jesus' love changes us

**Sermon Refresher:** Jesus' letter in Revelation is a call for the church in Ephesus to examine their lives and hearts. We, too, need to do a spiritual examination of our lives. Christ calls us to serve even when it's difficult, He calls us to grow in our spiritual maturity, but ultimately, He calls us to love the LORD above all else.

**Icebreaker:** What is something you do because you know it's right or good for you, but deep down you really hate?

### Discussion:

1. When Keith read this week's Scripture, he asked... what would Jesus say to you? Read Revelation 2:1-7 aloud while pondering the same question. In other words, think about if Jesus is the spiritual examiner, what report would he give your life?
2. Christ calls us to work hard, persevere, and endure hardship for him. What is something in your life that you work really hard at and find joy in?

3. What is your initial response to the third checkpoint Jesus mentions in Revelation 2:4?

#### Revelation 2:4

<sup>4</sup>Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken your first love.

**Digging Deeper:** If you love a person, you think of him/her, you want to know more about him/her, you listen to him/her, you're invested in him/her, you defend him/her, you enjoy hearing positive things about him/her. Reflect on the ways you love Jesus well and what ways you struggle to love Jesus.

4. Jesus tells us where to start in fighting a fickle love for him.

#### Revelation 2:5a

<sup>5</sup>Remember the height from which you have fallen!

What does this verse mean and what does it mean for your life? Take some time to reflect on the "height from which you have fallen".

# THE **crossing** **small groups**

5. **Teach:** We know our sin isn't the end. On Sunday we sang the song, In Christ Alone. Read through the lyrics below:

Scorned by the ones He came to save  
'Til on that cross as Jesus died  
The wrath of God was satisfied  
For every sin on Him was laid  
Here in the death of Christ I live, I live

There in the ground His body lay  
Light of the world by darkness slain  
Then bursting forth in glorious Day  
Up from the grave He rose again  
And as He stands in victory  
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me  
For I am His and He is mine  
Bought with the precious blood of Christ

No guilt in life, no fear in death  
This is the power of Christ in me  
From life's first cry to final breath  
Jesus commands my destiny  
No power of hell, no scheme of man  
Can ever pluck me from His hand  
Till He returns or calls me home  
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand

When we remember the magnitude of our sin and the magnitude of Jesus' sacrifice, love is a natural response. Where in your life could you better exemplify the love of Christ?

6. Keith reminded us on Sunday that being a Christian isn't about being busy doing stuff. The essence of being a Christian is a love for Jesus. Read 1 Corinthians 15:56-58. How does the word "therefore" in verse 58 change the way we labor for the Lord?

**Digging Deeper:** What are specific areas of your life that are easy for you to serve because of Jesus' love? What are the areas where you tend to act out of obligation or habit?

**Sharing and Prayer:** Pray that the LORD would open our eyes to Jesus' love for us and that the Spirit would move our hearts to love Jesus more. Pray that our love for Jesus would grow every day and that as a result, our lives would bear the fruit of service and spiritual growth.