

aWORD / CHURCH

7 LETTERS TO THE CHURCHES IN REVELATION

Small Group Curriculum

SERMON **A Letter to the Love-Lacking (Revelation 2:1-7)**

DATE **Oct. 31 / Nov. 1 2015**

"To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: 'The words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand, who walks among the seven golden lampstands. ²' 'I know your works, your toil and your patient endurance, and how you cannot bear with those who are evil, but have tested those who call themselves apostles and are not, and found them to be false. ³ I know you are enduring patiently and bearing up for my name's sake, and you have not grown weary. ⁴ But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first. ⁵ Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent, and do the works you did at first. If not, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent. ⁶ Yet this you have: you hate the works of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. ⁷ He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who conquers I will grant to eat of the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.'

1. Ephesus was one of the most important cities in Asia Minor at the time of John's writing. Read the story of the earliest workings of the Lord in the church in Ephesus in **Acts 18:19-19:41**.
2. The letters to the seven churches in Revelation 2-3 are all similarly structured. Use the chart below to summarize the Lord's message to Ephesus.

Description of Jesus	
Obedient action(s)	
Disobedient action(s)	
If they continue to disobey...	
If they obey...	

3. In Revelation 2:4 the Lord speaks to Ephesus, saying that they have "abandoned" their first love. What does that word "abandoned" communicate? What is the difference between the word "abandoned" and "lost"?
4. Can you recall a time in your walk with the Lord that you were more excited about him and his Kingdom? What kinds of things have crept in to distract and divert your affection from your "first love"?
5. Along with calling the church in Ephesus to "repent," verse 5 also makes mention of the act of remembering "from where you have fallen." What does this mean, and how can it fit in our lives as we seek to respond in repentance?
6. What does it mean to "do the works you did at first"? Read **Colossians 3:1-17**. As we are called to repent and put off, with what kind of behavior can we replace our sin?
7. Read **2 Samuel 24:10-25** where David sins against the Lord by taking a census without a sacrifice (cf. Exodus 30:11-16). How had David forgotten his first love? How do we see David responding in critical steps of repentance: remembering what God has done, repenting of sins committed, and restoring to former works.
8. What is it specifically that God is calling you to repent of today?