

Connection Group Discussion Questions

For the week of May 1, 2016

Revelation 2:1-3, 7

These questions are to be used as a spring board for discussion.

Answers may or may not be found in the sermons.

New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: These are 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. I know that you cannot tolerate evildoers; you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them to be false. ³ I also know that you are enduring patiently and bearing up for the sake of my name, and that you have not grown weary.

⁷ Let anyone who has an ear listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches. To everyone who conquers, I will give permission to eat from the tree of life that is in the paradise of God.

Common English Bible (CEB)

“Write this to the angel of the church in Ephesus:

These are the words of the one who holds the seven stars in his right hand and walks among the seven gold lampstands: ² I know your works, your labor, and your endurance. I also know that you don’t put up with those who are evil. You have tested those who say they are apostles but are not, and you have found them to be liars. ³ You have shown endurance and put up with a lot for my name’s sake, and you haven’t gotten tired.

⁷ If you can hear, listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches. I will allow those who emerge victorious to eat from the tree of life, which is in God’s paradise.

Connection Questions:

1. Over the “Next Step” series have you developed any new spiritual disciplines? Share some of your experiences.
2. Why do you think God allows suffering to exist in our world? How do faith and patience play a role in dealing with the sufferings we encounter?
3. It is important to acknowledge that to grow in our faith we have to be willing partners. Discuss what that statement means to you.
4. Have you ever had an experience that has brought you closer to God? Can our faith always be exciting, constantly feeling close to God? Why or why not?

5. How is a faith covenant with God similar to a marriage covenant? Are there similar ups and downs?

6. Our text in Revelations 2:1-3, 7 describes a difficult time for the Jewish people. The Temple had been destroyed, they were dispersed and their traditions were at risk of being lost. How do you think their faith in God helped them to endure their suffering?

7. The writer of Revelations constantly used symbols and images to remind the listeners about the importance of their faith. How are symbols and images that point us to God important?

8. What road blocks are there to developing and maintaining spiritual disciplines as we try to grow in our faith?