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### **FOLLOW THE LEADER**

STUDY AND DISCUSSION GUIDE

This guide is designed to help you reflect on Sunday's sermon, study God's Word on Monday and Tuesday, discuss it in small groups on Wednesday, and continue growing in your faith and closeness with Jesus through devotionals from Thursday through Saturday. My prayer is that you would see Jesus more clearly and trust Him more confidently as you send time with Him every day.

### Part 1: Connect with God

Read Revelation 2:1-7:

## Monday

Pray: Ask God to reveal where you may have drifted from your first love for Him. Invite the Holy Spirit to help you listen and obey His voice this week.

What does Jesus commend the church in Ephesus for? What does Jesus challenge them to change?
Have you ever felt like your faith was once on fire, but now feels routine or distant?
What do you think Jesus means when He says, "You have abandoned the love you had at first" (Revelation 2:4)?
Write about a time when you felt closest to Jesus. What were you doing differently then?
What distractions in your life may have caused your faith to grow cold?
How can you return to that closeness with Jesus this week?

Memory Verse Challenge: "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." Revelation 2:7

### Tuesday

Pray: Invite God into your quiet time. Be honest about what you are feeling. Whether trial or triumph, share that with Him.

Key Question:
What does it look like to truly follow Jesus rather than just go through the motions?
Personal Application:
<b>Recognize:</b> Where in your life have you been "cruising" in your faith instead of actively following Jesus?
<b>Repent:</b> What do you need to turn away from that has distracted you from loving Jesus first?
Reignite: What is one practical way you can reconnect with Jesus this week?

Action Step: Share with a close friend or mentor where you feel distant from Jesus and ask them to pray with you.

### Wednesday Small Group Discussion

### Discussion Questions:

- 1. What stood out to you most from Sunday's sermon?
- 2. How did the opening story about "forgetting to follow" relate to you and your relationship with Jesus?
- 3. What does it mean to follow Jesus with both your worship and your work?
- 4. Why do we sometimes trade closeness with Jesus for just doing things for Him?
- 5. What are some specific ways we can return to our "first love" for Jesus?

### **Group Challenge:**

Write down one step you will take this week to reignite your faith. Share it with the group so you can encourage each other!

### **Prayer Time:**

- Pray for renewed passion and love for Jesus.
- Ask for courage to remain faithful, even in difficult times.
- Pray for each other's commitments to follow Jesus fully this week.

### Part4:

### Thursday

Read Revelation 2:8-11

"Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and for ten days you will have tribulation. Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life." Revelation 2:10

Reflection:
The church in Smyrna was suffering, yet Jesus encouraged them not to fear. Where in your life do you need to trust Jesus instead of being afraid?
How does knowing Jesus rewards faithfulness give you hope?
Action Step: Write down one fear you need to surrender to God today. Pray for strength to trust Him in that area.

### Friday

Read Revelation 2:12-17

"But I have a few things against you: you have some there who hold the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the sons of Israel, so that they might eat food sacrificed to idols and practice sexual immorality." Revelation 2:14

Reflection:
The church in Pergamum allowed compromise into their faith. What are some ways Christians today are tempted to compromise their faith?
Are there any areas in your life where you have let sin creep in?
Action Step: Ask God to reveal any areas where you might be compromising your faith. Confess and ask for His strength to walk in obedience.

### Part 6:

### Saturday

Read Revelation 2:18-29

Reflection:

### "I gave her time to repent, but she refuses to repent of her sexual immorality." Revelation 2:21

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The church in Thyatira was tolerating sin instead of repenting. Why is repentance so important in following Jesus?
Are there any areas where God has been calling you to repent but you have been ignoring Him?

### **Action Step:**

Spend time in prayer, asking God to help you see sin clearly and turn back to Him.

### Stay Connected:

- I hope you can join us in person, but if not you can join us online.
- Watch the sermon if you missed it. You can subscribe to the study and get notifications on Spotify, Youtube, or on my website.

### **Next Week:**

We'll continue our study on Sunday in Revelation 3. I hope this has helped strengthen your walk with the Lord. - Pastor Grant