



Stars and Lampsstands

WEEK 2 - First Love

REVIEW FROM LAST WEEK:

How is the 90 day giving challenge going?

What next step in your faith did you take this week?

CONTENT:

Have you ever received a gift that you loved at first and over time grew familiar to it and wasn't as excited about it? Describe the gift and what happened.

Revelation 2:1-5.

What was happening in Ephesus at the time this was written?

LEADERS NOTE: Ephesus like many cities in its day was dark, both spiritually and morally. The city had false religions & sexual perversion. They were even merging religious rituals and sexual perversion.

Knowing what we now know about Ephesus, do you think our city is anything like it? Explain.

What does Jesus commend them for?

Could the Lord commend you for these things?

What does it look like to work hard for the kingdom?

How would you explain perseverance?

What does it look like to persevere in our service to the Lord?

What things end up stopping us from serving?

LEADERS NOTE: The most common reason people give for not serving is that they are busy.

Is busyness a valid excuse from serving? Explain.

In verse 4, what does Jesus say he holds against them? What was the cause of this sin?

How were they able to persevere though losing their first love for Christ?

LEADERS NOTE: Through His spirit (Romans 8:38-39). The sin Christ charged this church with, is, not the having left and forsaken the object of love, but having lost the fervent degree of it that at first appeared.

Why is losing your first love for Christ a sin?

LEADERS NOTE: We are commanded to worship him. He deserves all of our worship for creating us and taking all of the wrath that we deserve on Himself on the cross. Exodus 20:2, "You shall have no other gods before me." Then in Matthew 22:36-38, "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment."

What advice does he give in correcting this?

Do you feel this is applicable to you? If so, what do you think has made you lose that first love for Jesus?

APPLICATION:

Do you need to repent? What does this look like for you in your situation?

How do you plan to fall more in love with Christ this week? How can we help you in that?

PRAYER:

Heavenly Father, may I take time every day to fill my heart with your love for me. Life has a way of draining my strength. But Lord, your love for me is the strength of my heart. May I run to you daily, so I can be filled over and over and over again. And Lord as you fill me with high-octane love, may it ignite a fire in my heart. And may it shine bright with hard work for you. And may I keep on serving till I see you face to face. In Jesus name, Amen.