



WHEN THE CHURCH GETS IT WRONG Week 2

MAIN OBJECTIVE: Be inspired by the example of the church at Smyrna and look for opportunities to remain steadfast in faithful obedience.

KEEP IN MIND: The goal is NOT to try and get through all the questions, but to have a meaningful discussion. Go through and think about which questions will land and spark the most conversation with those in your group.

INTRO: Finishing the Race Well

1. Play this video clip from "Secretariat"
<https://youtu.be/BxA11SJ8vPY?si=EaiNiXoFH6GHxp0>
2. Say this: In this famous racehorse's last race, he finished at full speed all the way through (and past) the finish line, racing with everything he had.

DISCUSSION: Reflecting on your own race

- How does this movie scene depicting the incredible true story from 1973 inspire you?
- Where do you find yourself in the race you have before you? Are you tired, thriving, burned out? Describe the specific events that have led you here.

READ REVELATION 2:8-11

- In verse 9, we see that though the church at Smyrna faced affliction and poverty- they were considered rich! What do you think this means?
- How do riches in the Kingdom of God differ than the riches of this world?
- What does it look like for you to reorient your life to a Kingdom of God perspective? How will you evaluate what riches truly look like?

READ Revelation 2:10 again

- How is it possible for us to face suffering without fear?
- What hardship are you currently enduring that you need encouragement in?
- How does the encouragement at the end of this verse strengthen your faithfulness during hardships?
- How does God's provision in past seasons of suffering encourage you in the present moment?

DISCUSSION:

- What opportunities do you have to be faithful to what God has called you to this week- even when it's hard?
- What obstacles or fears make it difficult for you to remain steadfast?
- How can you rely on the strength of the Holy Spirit in you to press on in faithfulness?



CHALLENGE:

- Take time every day this week to pray: "Lord, help me be faithful, not comfortable."
- Ask God to help you keep an eternal perspective in your daily life.

CLOSING PRAYER:

- Pray for one another in the specific areas of life each member desires to exhibit steadfast obedience this week.
- Praise God for the promise and joy of eternity that gives us hope to finish our race well!