

2011 | | WCC
 Weekly Sermon/Small Group Series
 2/27/2011

Small Group Leaders Guide

A New Year a New You:
 A New Perspective on Poverty

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Time		Questions	Answers
10	<u>Hook</u>	<i>Use this question to engage group members in conversation with an introduction question that helps them get to know each other better.</i>	
	1	What opportunities did you have this past week to <i>hupomeno</i> , to persevere? How did you do in that challenge?	Open Answer.
10	<u>Book</u>	<i>Use these questions to set the tone for the study and give group members a background in the text you will be studying.</i>	
	2	Before turning to the final letter, look back at the first three chapters and review the main theme of each letter.	Ephesus (Remember Jesus is to be your first love), Smyrna (Be faithful in the midst of Suffering), Pergamum (Correct the false teaching before it spreads), Thyatira (Repent of your Sexual Immorality) Sardis (Wake Up-You need a revival), Philadelphia (Perseverance), Laodicea (Repent of your Lukewarm faith)

25	Look	<i>Use these questions as entry points into the passage of scripture.</i>	
	3	Read Revelation 3:14-22. What does the word Amen mean? After rereading verse 17, why do you think Jesus is sure to remind this church that his title is the Amen, the faithful and true witness?	“So be it”, “It is true” or “let it become so.” There seems to be a discrepancy between how this church views herself and how Jesus views her. When there is a difference of opinion, Jesus reminds the church, I am the one who is telling the truth; I have the final word.
	4	Which of the 4 components of Jesus’ 7 letters is missing from these verses? What is the meaning behind the illustration of hot, cold and lukewarm water.	Introduction, Commendation, Correction/Condemnation, and Exhortation. The one missing here is Commendation. There is nothing to commend in Laodicea. Both Hot and Cold water have useful purposes (cleansing, refreshing, etc) but lukewarm water is useless.
	5	In Jesus ministry, he was always surrounded by crowds of people in which were hot, cold and lukewarm followers. Which group of people was cold? Lukewarm? Hot? Why is it so dangerous to be lukewarm in our spiritual life? Why is it better to be cold than lukewarm?	Cold: Sinners, Tax Collectors, etc. Lukewarm: Pharisees and Sadducees. Hot: Disciples. Lukewarm people think they are close to God, but in fact they make God sick. Lukewarm people think they do not need to make any corrections in their life. Cold people are far enough from God to know they are in need of forgiveness for their sins.
6	According to verse 19, what would motivate God to say to this church, “You make me sick!”? How do you think the average man on the street would complete the sentence, “Those whom I love I _____ (fill in the blank)?” How does this verse correct the culture’s misconceptions about God’s love?	He loves us enough to discipline us, to speak the truth in love to us for our correction. Most people would say, God blesses, rewards, celebrates, etc. God’s love is a perfecting love, not a pampering love. He loves us enough not to let us stay in the condition we are in when we come to him.	

	7	What are the transactions with God that Jesus advises this church is to make in order to correct their lives? How do we actually do business with God like Jesus is suggesting here?	Trade worldly riches for spiritual riches, trade expensive clothing for deeds of righteousness, and receive from God the ability to really see their condition-to remove their blindness. In prayer, meditation, spiritual disciplines, etc.
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15	<u>Took</u>	Use these questions to help the group take the meaning and apply it to their lives in tangible ways. Applications can be cognitive (change my thinking), behavioral (change my actions), or emotional (change my feelings). Be sure to turn these applications into prayer requests for the upcoming week as you close the study.	
	8	In what ways is the contemporary American church similar to the church of Laodicea?	We are one of the most resourced country in the world with money, number of Christians, skills and intelligence, technology, etc. It is easy to grow cold in your love for God when you have so much to distract you from faith.
	9	How can we be sure that we are always aware of God's testimony about our lives and not diluted with our own self promotion?	Open. Spend time listening and reading God's word. This letter is an example of how God's word can correct our false assumptions about ourselves.
	10	What proactive steps are you taking to improve your ability to lead others to Christ by fishing for men and women?	Open.

<u>Pray</u>	Pray for those who are lukewarm- those that are under the impression that they are good people, close to God and are not in need of daily repentance. Pray for God to convict us of areas of our life in which we have become lukewarm. Pray for the courage to open the doors of our life where Jesus is knocking.	
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