

Time		Questions	Answers
10	<b>Hook</b>	<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	How might you draw comparisons to the cities Pittsburgh (think Steelers) and Green Bay (Packers?) to this weeks city, Thyatira. Who did you root for in the Super Bowl and why? What was your favorite commercial?	<b>The two super bowl cities, like Thyatira, are centers of industry...that is what shapes the town and impacts the kind of folks who live and work there. Open answers.</b>
10	<b>Book</b>	<p data-bbox="281 792 1073 841"><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></p> <p data-bbox="281 1008 1073 1230">Invite someone with a study bible to read a description of the town of Thyatira. (If no one has one, you can read the one included in the answer section.) How does this letter reflect that Jesus knows what the major industries of this town are? What is the value of Jesus beginning and ending this letter of correction with familiar illustrations?</p>	<p data-bbox="1073 854 1902 1312"><b>They were a working class town, think Pittsburgh.</b> <i>(Thyatira was known for its working class associations or guilds. Indeed, more guilds are known in Thyatira than any other contemporary city in the Roman province of Asia (inscriptions mention the following: wool-workers, linen-workers, makers of outer garments, dyers, leather-workers, tanners, potters, bakers, slave-dealers and bronze-smiths.)</i> <b>Jesus mentions bronze, a refiners fire, pottery and other tools used in crafts. By telling the church that he knows the details of their life, he is building a connection with them that allows him the right to speak into their lives. He is connecting with their reality.</b></p>

25	<b>Look</b>	<i>Use these questions as entry points into the passage of scripture.</i>	
	3	Invite someone to read the letter to Thyatira in Revelation 2:18-29. For what are they commended? Compare this list to the other lists of commendation so far, how does it stack up? For what are they corrected (or condemned)?	<b>They are commended for their character, not just their ministry behavior as in the letter to Ephesus. Specifically their faith, love, perseverance, etc.</b>
	4	How can both of these realities be true within one church, or one person? What Biblical characters come to mind as examples of men who had outward obedience, but tolerated sin in compartments?	<b>People can easily compartmentalize areas of their life; split them off from other sections and not allow the light of God to shine into dark places in their hearts. Within a church, there can be groups that are rebelling against the larger body and leadership. Individuals can keep hidden sins hidden or believe false things that lead them to not treat their sin honestly. King David (not confessing his sin of Bathsheba), Samson, Saul, Judas, others.</b>
	5	Look back at 1 Kings 16:29-34, 1 Kings 18:4, 1 Kings 21:25. How would you describe Jezebel as a Queen? What is the point Jesus is making in using Jezebel as an illustration in this letter to Thyatira?	<b>She was an evil influence on Ahab, her husband. She killed off God's prophets and led Israel into idol worship. There is a false teacher in their midst who too is leading others astray.</b>
	6	Why is verse 21 so important in determining how to appropriately deal with sin within the church? (Remember the corollary passage we read last week in 1 Corinthians 5 where Paul told them to expel the immoral brother.)	<b>Everyone commits sin, so to cast out sinners would be to shut down the church. The immoral brother and this Jezebel are both being cast out for their lack of repentance over their sin. They were given a chance to repent and they chose not to. That is the sign that a brother or sister is to be removed from fellowship.</b>
	7	Check a study bible to see what meaning is behind the imagery of the morning star? (See Job 3:9, and Rev 22:16) How would that be an encouragement to the readers of this letter.	<b>The morning star was the brightest star in the sky at the darkest hour of night, right before the sun began to rise. Many now believe it was actually Venus in the sky, not a star. The star represented both light in darkness and the promise that the sun was about to arise. Jesus is our morning star, he is the light in a dark world and he is the</b>

			promise that a new day is going to dawn soon in life. They are called to persevere until He returns.
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15	<b>Took</b>	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	Jesus' letter to the Thyatirans uses a great pattern for mentoring relationships. He connects with their reality, he commends their character and then he calls them to a higher standard. In what relationships am I charged with challenging others and how can I apply this pattern?	<b>Parenting, Peer to peer mentoring, in marriage, work/career relationships, etc.</b>
	9	What areas of compromise do you see most commonly in our church community? That was the easy question, the harder question is, What areas of compromise are you most fraught with this week?	<b>Open Answer.</b>
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	<b><u>Pray</u></b>	<b>Pray we have ears to hear what Jesus is saying to us for His Word (written and Living). For perseverance. For courage to honestly assess our lives and repent where we need to. For grace to embrace sinners.</b>	
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