SMITH FOR CHRIST

TEACHING THE WORD · WATCHING THE TIMES

REFLECTION JOURNAL · FIVE DAYS

Revelation

Chapter 2

Four Churches: Return to Your First Love

MEMORY VERSE · REVELATION 2:10

"Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to cast some of you into prison, so that you will be tested, and you will have tribulation for ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life."

THIS JOURNAL BELONGS TO _____

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

This week in Revelation 2

Four times in this chapter Jesus says, “I know.” He knows your work, your hardship, your compromises and your love — all of it. This week, let the One with eyes like fire show you where to hold fast and where to turn around, and remember that every word of correction comes with a promise.

How to use this journal

1. Each day, read the passage slowly — out loud if you can.
2. Answer the **Observe** question from the text before you write what it means.
3. Write honestly on the **Reflect** questions. No one grades this.
4. Do the **Respond** step today, not someday. Say the memory verse.
5. Bring this journal to the group. The last page is for the table.

The O·I·A study, the slides and the film for this chapter are on the Revelation study page.

WHERE I AM AS I START THIS CHAPTER

What is going on in my life right now that I want to bring to God this week?

DAY 1 OF 5

Ephesus: Back to First Love

READ · REVELATION 2:1–7

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

List what Jesus praises in Ephesus (2:2–3, 6) and then write out exactly what He has against them (2:4).

REFLECT

Ephesus worked hard and knew sound doctrine, yet left its first love (2:2–4). When has your Christian life become more about getting things done than about loving Jesus?

REFLECT

Jesus' cure is remember, repent, and "do the deeds you did at first" (2:5). What did you actually do when your love for Christ was new — and which of those things have you stopped?

RESPOND — TODAY

Pick one of your 'first works' — the Word, prayer, fellowship, or telling someone about Jesus — and do it on purpose today, whether you feel like it or not.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (REVELATION 2:10)

DAY 2 OF 5

Smyrna: Faithful Until Death

READ · REVELATION 2:8–11

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What does Jesus say He knows about Smyrna in verse 9, and what does He warn is coming in verse 10?

REFLECT

Smyrna was poor, yet Jesus said "but you are rich" (2:9). How does Jesus measure a man's riches differently than the world does — and differently than you do?

REFLECT

Jesus warned that some would be thrown into prison, and He did not promise to keep them out (2:10). What hard thing in your life might be a place to stay faithful rather than a sign God forgot you?

RESPOND — TODAY

Pray by name for a believer who is locked up, sick, or suffering, asking Jesus to give him the crown of life.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (REVELATION 2:10)

DAY 3 OF 5

Pergamum: What I Tolerate

READ · REVELATION 2:12–17

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What did Pergamum do right (2:13), and what were they putting up with (2:14–15)?

REFLECT

Pergamum stood firm under persecution but let compromise in through the side door (2:13–14). What "small" thing are you tolerating that could open the door to a bigger fall?

REFLECT

Antipas is named in just one verse, and Jesus calls him "My witness, My faithful one" (2:13). What would you want Jesus to say about your faithfulness in the hard place where you live?

RESPOND — TODAY

Name one compromise to God out loud today and take one concrete step to remove it from your life.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (REVELATION 2:10)

DAY 4 OF 5

Thyatira: The Eyes of Fire

READ · REVELATION 2:18–23

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What is growing in Thyatira (2:19), and what are they tolerating (2:20)?

REFLECT

Jesus "gave her time to repent," but she did not want to (2:21). Where has God been patient with you, and how are you using that time?

REFLECT

Jesus is "He who searches the minds and hearts" (2:23). Is there something in your heart you have been hoping He would not look at too closely? Write about it honestly.

RESPOND — TODAY

Spend a few minutes asking Jesus to search your heart (Psalm 139:23–24 is a good guide), and confess whatever He shows you — then thank Him for His forgiveness.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (REVELATION 2:10)

DAY 5 OF 5

Hold Fast Until I Come

READ · REVELATION 2:24–29

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What does Jesus ask of the faithful in Thyatira (2:24–25), and what does He promise them (2:26–28)?

REFLECT

To those who resisted the false teaching, Jesus laid "no other burden" — just "hold fast until I come" (2:24–25). What do you have in Christ that you most need to hold onto right now?

REFLECT

Jesus promises the overcomer "the morning star" (2:28), which Revelation 22:16 shows is Christ Himself. How does knowing the reward is Jesus Himself change what it means to overcome?

RESPOND — TODAY

Write down the name of one man you will encourage this week to hold fast, and tell him so.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (REVELATION 2:10)

WHEN THE GROUP MEETS

Questions for the table

FOR THE GROUP · 1

Each letter starts with “I know” (2:2, 9, 13, 19). How does it feel to be fully known by Jesus — and how does His praise of what is real make His correction easier to hear?

FOR THE GROUP · 2

Ephesus had truth without love; Thyatira had love without truth (2:4, 20). How can we as a group keep both truth and love strong among us?

FOR THE GROUP · 3

Every letter ends with a promise “to him who overcomes” (2:7, 11, 17, 26). Which promise in this chapter means the most to you this week, and why?

MY PRAYER

Lord Jesus, You know my deeds and my heart, so help me hold fast to You as I…

CUT OUT · CARRY IT · REVELATION 2:10

"Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to cast some of you into prison, so that you will be tested, and you will have tribulation for ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life."