

Seven CHURCHES

Letters to the Early Church for the Ears of Today

SMALL GROUP GUIDE

SEPT 13, 2026

The Church of Ephesus

Jesus' letter to the church in Ephesus challenges believers to examine not only what they do for Christ, but also why they do it. The Ephesian church was faithful, hardworking, discerning, and resilient, yet Jesus identified a deeper problem: they had forgotten their first love. This passage reminds us that spiritual activity and sound theology are not substitutes for a vibrant relationship with God. As we study these verses together, we are invited to remember our true story, rekindle our love for Christ, and listen attentively to what the Spirit is saying to us today.

- What one word would describe how you feel about following Jesus today?
- Read Revelation 2:1-7. In Revelation 2:2-3, Jesus commends the church for several qualities. What strengths and positive characteristics do you see in the Ephesian church?
- Jesus says, "You have forsaken the love you had at first" (Revelation 2:4). What do you think He means by "first love," and why was this such a serious concern?
- According to Revelation 2:5, what are the three actions Jesus calls the church to take in response to this problem? How do these steps work together?
- What is one area of your life where God may be inviting you to remember, repent, or return to Him more fully?
- What does returning to your first love (in Christ) look like?
- How might we be doing the right things for Christ while our love for Christ doesn't deepen?

Prayer

Pair up with an individual of the same gender in your group to pray for each other based on Revelation 2:1-7.



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Practice

This week, spend 10–15 minutes reflecting on a season when your faith felt especially alive. Write down two or three memories of God's work in your life during that time, thank Him for those moments, and identify one practical step you can take to renew your love for Christ today. Share that step with someone in the group for encouragement and accountability.