

QUESTIONS FOR HOUSE GROUP
Revelation 2:1-7: The Church at Ephesus

To learn more about the church at Ephesus read Acts 18:18-20:38 and Paul's letter to the Ephesians.

1. *(Rev. 1:19-20) Why did Jesus have John write to the churches? Consider what God told Abraham concerning the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah in Gen. 18:16-19, specifically v. 17. Also read Amos 3:7-8; Heb. 1:1-2; and Rev. 1:19. What does God's concern for His people, and for what they are about to experience, tell you about God?*
2. *(Rev. 2:1) Why are the angels of the churches in Jesus' right hand? Consider Ex. 15:6 and Isa. 41:10. Why are they first described as stars (Rev. 1:16)?*
3. *(Rev. 2:2-3) In v. 2 Jesus says He knows the Ephesians' deeds, toil, and perseverance, and He commends them for their endurance. What does it mean that they toiled and persevered, and against what? How do we toil and persevere for His name's sake? What does it mean to you that Jesus knows your works?*
4. *(Rev. 2:4) James tells us that without works faith is dead (James 2:26). Although the Ephesians' deeds, toil and perseverance are commended, Jesus rebukes them for leaving their first love. Why is leaving their first love so serious that Jesus threatens to remove the lampstand? Who does God command to be your first love? Read Deut. 6:3-5, Psa. 73:25-28, and Matt. 22:36-39. Read Gen. 18:22-33. What does it mean to a community if its lampstand is removed?*
5. *(Rev. 2:5) Jesus calls on the Ephesians to overcome in v. 7. What does Rev. 2:5 teach us about overcoming lovelessness? Also see Rom. 8:35-37.*
6. *(Rev. 2:7) Who has ears to hear what the Spirit says to the churches? Jesus says in Matt. 13:10-17 (specifically vv. 11 and 16) that there are indeed people who do have such ears. The concepts of seeing and not seeing, hearing and not hearing are not unique to the New Testament. They are found first in the Old Testament in relation to idol worship; see Isa. 6:9-10; 42:18-21; Psa. 135:14-18 (particularly vv. 17-18); Deut. 29:1-4.*
7. *(Rev. 2:7) What does it mean to eat from the tree of life? What is the biblical story (past, present and future) of the tree of life? Consider Gen. 2:8-9, 15-17; Jn. 6:27, 40, 54; Rev. 22:2, 14, 19.*