



DISCIPLE GROUP CURRICULUM CURRICULUM GUIDE

To The Church: Week 2

March 5 & 8, 2020

LEADER INFO:

Coach and Leader ROCK Training: <https://coe22.ccbchurch.com/goto/forms/2546/responses/new>

This Week – Create space in the “CONNECT & CHECK-IN” section to pray for anyone suffering

GROUP ANNOUNCEMENTS:

LENT | February 26 – April 9

To prepare for Easter, we are fasting from food on Wednesdays from sunup to sundown. We believe it's beneficial at times to tell our flesh no, so we can say yes to Jesus. Also, on Wednesdays is an hour of prayer from 12pm-1pm at all campuses. **Learn more about Lent and all Easter week events at coe22.com/easter**

Share Your Faith | Saturday, March 28 | 8:30am-12pm

This is an interactive workshop where we'll learn how to share our faith with others. Come learn how to identify your testimony, clearly present the gospel and how to live out the Great Commission.

Learn more at coe22.com/events

Save the Date | Churchwide Serve Day Coming | April 25

MEMORY VERSE: ¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. – John 1:1-2

THIS WEEK'S READING PLAN:

Monday – Revelation 2:8-11
Tuesday – Romans 8:18-39
Wednesday – James 1:2-4
Thursday – John 16:16-33
Friday – Philippians 1
Saturday – 2 Corinthians 4

Sent Focus - Week 8: Pastor Ryan Kwon preached at Saturated in 2018, reminding us of God's design for His church and praying for unity in the body. Today, let's pray for the Kwon family as they seek to cultivate a gospel-centered church in a spiritually confused community. We celebrate with Pastor Ryan and Resonate as they opened their Fremont location in January of this year! Learn more: resonatemovement.org/

CONNECT & CHECK-IN:

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR LIFE: *(It's ok to spend entire group praying for each other)*

- Is anyone suffering or have a hard week coming? (Encourage, Scripture, Pray, Next Steps)
 - Who did you bless this week?
-
-

TO THE CHURCH – Week 2: SMYRNA – SUFFER WELL

Point: Faithfulness in suffering is not based on your feelings as a result of your circumstances. **Faithfulness is trusting in the finished work of our Savior.**

SERMON TEXTS: Revelation 2:8-11 & John 16:33

Discussion Questions

(The goal is to grow in our relationship with Christ and each other. It is ok if you don't cover every question.)

DISCOVER

Have someone read Rev. 2:8-11 out loud.

1. **The first words we read are truths about Jesus Christ, that He literally died and came back to life. As we begin to talk about suffering, why is it so crucial to remember that Jesus died, but even more importantly, came back to life?** (The biggest thing that people normally fear is death. Jesus has beaten death, not only for himself, but for all who trust him. Hebrews 2:15 says that Jesus freed from those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. Truth gives us perspective as we undergo suffering.)
2. **Pastor Joby's point in the sermon was that faithfulness in suffering is not based on our feelings as a result of circumstances. Faithfulness is trusting in the finished work of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Specifically, what are those facts that we are trusting when we say we are trusting in Jesus? How does this help in dealing with suffering?** *(As John Piper said, "Christianity is about facts. It's more than facts, but it's not less than facts." Here are some of the facts that we are trusting. Fact #1 – The universe isn't random, but Jesus Christ is sovereign. That means that he is in charge and whatever you are going through, he had to sign off on first. Fact #2 – In life and in suffering, God only wants your good and his glory. Remember, what God wants, God gets! This helps us because it lets us know that our suffering actually has purpose. God is using it in our lives.)*
3. **All of us know suffering is not fun, and it's hard. Anyone who tells you differently probably hasn't really suffered. Remembering how God has been faithful in the past can help us see he will be faithful now and into the future. Share a time when you suffered, and what you learned (or are learning) about God and yourself.** *(God does not waste a hurt. His sovereignty allows you to suffer, and many times we get to look back and see the purpose. By nature, suffering is painful. The disciples in Smyrna were facing imprisonment and perhaps worse. We face various forms of suffering such as cancer, death of loved ones, losing jobs, financial ruin, the betrayal of friends, and the list goes on. We fear these things because we know of the pain it will bring and we want to avoid it at all costs.)*

DEEPEN

Now, let's dive deeper into God's Word and see how we might apply it to our lives.

Have someone re-read Rev. 2:8-11 and someone else read John 16:33 out loud.

4. John is pointing out the reality of the church's circumstances (poor and persecuted). Yet, he's also reminding the church of their identity ("you're rich"). What is John referring to when he says, "but you are rich"? How are you rich in the things that matter to Christ? *(The things that really matter are things such as faith in Jesus Christ, trusting in God, loving God, loving people and having a true purpose and meaning in life. It is important to remember these things because the world around us constantly tries to trivialize them and deem other things as "important". However, the things the world has to offer have no real lasting value.)*

5. The second death is the final ending place for those who utterly reject Jesus Christ and want no part of God in eternity. However, those who conquer, that is, those who continue trusting Jesus even through suffering, will know the joy of heaven and eternal life. How can we as individuals and a community live as conquerors, knowing the battle has been won? *(Focus on Christ-like character, rather than circumstances. The promise of eternal life helps us with suffering because it teaches us that no matter how painful the suffering, it is only for a relatively short time. No Christian suffers in this life forever. Jesus always redeems them. Sometimes Jesus redeems them by ending the suffering in this life. Sometimes Jesus redeems them by bringing them home to heaven, where there is no more "crying or pain" (Rev. 21)).*

ACTION STEP

BE SENT out into the world. We live in a broken world, and Jesus told us to GO! As we go into the world, we have an opportunity to engage suffering people all around us. This week, decide as a disciple group how you will use your stories and sufferings to declare Jesus as the ONE thing driving everything. There are two ways your disciple group can do this together. 1. Attend Share Your Faith together on March 28. 2. Sign up for the Churchwide Serve Day.

