

Revelation 2:1-7
From the King with love

Warm Up

What was your first crush? What did it feel like? Are you brave enough to share? What causes couples to “lose their first love” and become overly comfortable and lazy in a relationship? What about when you first came to Christ? Is there a difference between then and now?

Background and context

The Church at Ephesus was one of the early Christian communities established in the first century AD. Ephesus, a prominent city in the Roman province of Asia (modern-day Turkey), was a major centre of commerce and culture. It was renowned for the Temple of Artemis, one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, and was a hub of pagan worship and idolatry. The Apostle Paul played a crucial role in the establishment of the Ephesian church. Paul's ministry in Ephesus was marked by powerful demonstrations of the Holy Spirit, including miracles and the casting out of evil spirits. The impact of the church was great. Within two hundred years, the apparent eternal cult of Artemis was gone. The Christian faith had spread through ordinary people, serving and worshipping Jesus.

Thinking it through: Main discussion/activity



READ Revelation 2:1-7 .What are the surprising things in the passage? What is new? What don't you really understand?

1. How would you respond if you received a personal letter from Jesus?
2. **Read v 1-3**. What do we learn about Jesus from these verses?
3. What is that Jesus is pleased with? Why do you think this is so?
4. How can these verses comfort those who are struggling with faith or being persecuted and wondering if God understands or sees their suffering?
5. **Read Acts 19:23-32**. What does this tell us about the culture in which the church existed?
6. What problems and persecutions might the church at Ephesus have faced as a result of the culture they lived in?
7. What similarities are there with the ancient world and church, and the church and the world today?
8. **Read v 4-5**. What is it that Jesus has against the church in Ephesus?
9. What do you think **“forsaken your first love”** means? How might that have happened despite their hard work?
10. What warning does Jesus give? What does it mean?

Discipleship and Application



11. Loving your neighbour does not come naturally. How can the church ensure that it is able to love those in the community?
12. How can we prevent our ministries from being loveless and task focussed? See Romans 5:5



Try to leave 15-20 mins to talk about prayer needs of the group and to pray.

There are many creative ways of praying together: writing prayers, using candles as a focus, reading prayers or praying for each other in pairs.