
ENABLE 1.2

Seven Churches - Small Group Session Two
Week Beginning 24th September



Jesus' word to His church

Two weeks ago, In our first introductory Small Group session, we started to think about the different ways God enables us to live as followers of Jesus.

One of the primary gifts God gives us to help us follow Jesus is the blessing of one another - the church. God calls us to follow Him, not on our own, but together as His people.

We reminded ourselves of the picture of the first church which we are given in the book of Acts. We saw from those first disciples the radical and deep devotion they had towards one another and we considered how we might reflect that devotion in our groups this year.

"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer."
Acts 2:42

This week (and for the next few weeks) we are going to continue to explore what it means to be the church.

Jesus is, of course, the one who builds His church and the one who leads His church. At the start of the book of Revelation John is given a vision of just that - Jesus standing in the centre of His church, speaking to His church. John is then told to write down Jesus' encouragements and commands.

Over the next few weeks, we are going to look at what Jesus has to say to His church. We are going to ask how Jesus' instruction can help us to be the church Jesus longs for us to be.

**Write on a scroll what you see
and send it to the seven churches**

Revelation 1:11

Seven lampstands

1 A vision of Jesus

The vision given to John in the book of Revelation starts with Jesus who is pictured standing in the centre of His church. Let's start by thinking about that amazing sight. **Read Revelation 1:9-20 together.**

Time for a list. Grab a piece of paper and jot down some of the different images that tell us about Jesus in these verses.

- How might this picture of Jesus be different from the way we normally imagine Him?
 - How might this picture of Jesus shape how we listen to Him as he speaks to His church in the next verses?
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2 Ephesus

Now read what Jesus says to the first church - **Revelation 2:1-7.**

- What sort of lessons should we be learning in our local church from what Jesus says to the church in Ephesus?
 - What actions should we take in our local church given what Jesus says? (Consider this both as individuals as well as the actions we might need to take together.)
 - What encouragement might we take away from these verses?
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3 Smyrna

Now read what Jesus says to the second church - **Revelation 2:8-11.**

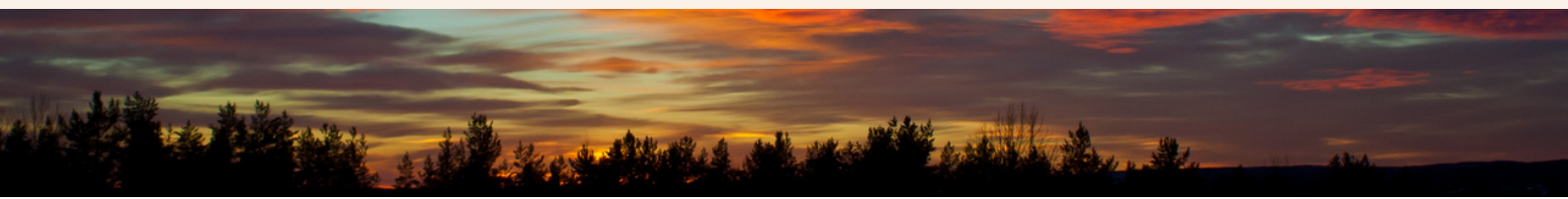
- What sort of lessons should we be learning in our local church from what Jesus says to the church in Smyrna?
 - What actions should we take in our local church given what Jesus says? (Consider this both as individuals as well as the actions we might need to take together.)
 - What encouragement might we take away from these verses?
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4 So what

It would be odd if we didn't find both John's vision of Jesus and Jesus' words both deeply encouraging and deeply challenging.

- From tonight's teaching, are there one or two things for your group to take into the year ahead?
- What one or two reflections might you need to take away individually from listening to Jesus tonight?

Once you have spent time sharing those thoughts with one another spend some time praying for one another and for our church.



Autumn Term Timetable

Introducing ENABLE - Central Meeting

7:30pm Thursday 7th September

Small Group Session 1.1

Week beginning 10th September

Prayer Meeting Week

7:00pm Trinity-wide hosted at All Hallows - 20th September

Small Group Session 1.2

Week beginning 24th September

Small Group Session 1.3

Week beginning 1st October

Small Group Session 1.4

Week beginning 8th October

Prayer Meeting Week

7:30pm 18th/19th October

Half Term Break - Week beginning 22nd October

Small Group Session 2.1

Week beginning 29th October

Small Group Session 2.2

Week beginning 5th November

Prayer Meeting Week

7:30pm 15th/16th November

Small Group Session 2.3

Week beginning 19th November

Small Group Session 2.4

Week beginning 26th November

ENABLE into Action - Group Activities

Week beginning 3rd December

support and
encouragement
to live for Jesus