
ENABLE 1.4

Luke Warm, Weary or Asleep
Small Group Session Four
Week Beginning 8th October



The words of the Amen

Over the last three sessions, we have been thinking about God's great gift of the church - we have been given each other to help us live for Jesus. Yet, over the last two weeks, we have seen that there are real dangers for Jesus' church.

In the throne room of heaven, the risen and ascended Jesus looks at His church - the seven or complete church.

As he looks at His church, Jesus sees wonderful beautiful things, but also things that cause Him to issue his warning.

If you are full of good deeds, but have no love - recover your love (Revelation 2:1-7). If you are faithful, but fearful about suffering - fix your eyes on the crown that awaits you (Revelation 2:8-11). If you are seduced by false teaching and immorality - repent! (Revelation 2:8-29).

Each week, we have been encouraged as well as challenged - seeing similarities between our church, our life together and the seven churches.

This week, we come to the end of Jesus' letter to the church as we look at the final three churches.

If Jesus' words last week were shocking, His words this week are sobering. He writes to a dying church, a weak church and a lukewarm church... but the reason He writes is because He loves his church and for each of these churches there is real hope.

It can be hard thinking about our life together as Jesus speaks to us. Maybe, as you come to this final section, spend some time praying that Jesus's words would come in power.

At the end of each 'letter', Jesus says, "Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches". I assume that is because we find it hard to hear. Let's pray we might have ears to hear this week.

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Revelation 3:22

To the victorious

1 Three Letters

As we look at these three churches, we don't have time to explore all the details and all the images - in-fact speculation about them is probably unhelpful. The main point of each letter to each church is crystal clear and that is going to be our focus.

Each letter follows the same pattern as last week, look out for it as you read the verses. (*The words of... I know... But... A challenge or warning... The one who conquers...*)

After you have read each section, spend time answering these questions.

1. What is the concern?
2. What is the warning/encouragement?
3. How will it be in the end for those who overcome and are victorious?
4. In what ways might this apply to us, our church or the church in the West?

Section One - Sardis - Read Revelation 3:1-6

Section Two - Philadelphia - Read Revelation 3:7-13

Section Three - Laodicea - Read Revelation 3:14-22

2 Time to reflect

The remarkable thing is that, no matter how desperate the situation might be for the church, it is never too late in this life. Jesus in all His holiness, faithfulness and love is disciplining His church. Jesus is calling them and us back to Him. The church that is nearly dead should wake up and come to life (1-6). The church that is feeling weak and weary should remember that the door to the kingdom is open and the Lord will establish His people as His 'temple' in the new creation (7-13). The church that is luke-warm or complacent should turn back and find it's 'wealth' in Jesus (14-22).

Take some time to reflect and draw your thoughts together:

How do these verses make you think or feel about Jesus? How might this change how you follow Him?

How do these verses challenge you individually? Which of these words might you not want to hear? How might it change you this week?

How should these verses encourage or challenge us as a church? What might we need to pray for our church today?

3 Prayer

Having spent time reflecting, given everything we have seen, turn to pray for one another, your group and 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