

**“DON’T GIVE UP ON LOVE”
Revelation 2:1-7**

JESUS IS WITH US (Revelation 2:1)

What about angels, Ephesus, stars and lampstands?

JESUS SEES US AS WE REALLY ARE (Revelation 2:2-4, 6)

A. What pleases Him (Revelation 2:2-3, 6)?

B. What does He have _____ us (Revelation 2:4)?
Mark 12:29-31; 1 John 4:20

JESUS PROVIDES THE _____ AND THE _____ (Revelation 2:5, 7).

- *He has a two-step treatment plan (Revelation 2:5)
Revelation 1:4-5*
- *He promises the tree of life (Revelation 2:7).*

Program Discussion Guide

Further study:

Reversed Thunder: The Revelation of John and the Praying Imagination by Eugene Peterson

The Returning King: A Guide to the Book of Revelation by Vern S. Poythress

Be Victorious by Warren Wiersbe

Main Idea: Jesus affirms hard work, perseverance and Bible knowledge but wants us to repent of our failure to love and take action.

CONNECTING

Last Sunday was Super Bowl 50. With whom did you watch the game? Did your team win? What was your favorite commercial? Also, did you give a gift to your “Valentine?” Talk about it with your group.

What does the word “Revelation” mean? How is it an “unveiling”? What happens in our brains when we hear language that stirs our five senses?

What do you know about the church in Ephesus? Read Acts 19:23-41 and share your observations with your group. Why do you think Jesus chose this church as the first for His evaluation?

UNDERSTANDING

Read Revelation 2:1-7. Review the five-fold pattern common for the seven churches of Revelation 2-3. List the images in Revelation 2:1. What are *angels*, *stars* and *lampstands*?

Read Revelation 2:2-3. What is the positive affirmation Jesus gives this church? Would He say the same things about us at Stonebridge? How is verse 6 an illustration of what this church is doing well? Who are the Nicolaitans? Are there groups who teach similar things today?

LIVING

Jesus had something “against” this church (Revelation 2:4). Was the “love they had abandoned” a love for God, a love for each other or both? Why is abandoning love so serious in Jesus’ eyes? If Jesus attended your group today, what might He say about your love for God and others?

What is the two-part cure to which Jesus calls us (1:5)? What are we to remember about His love (Rev. 1:4-5)? How does this help us to repent and take action in love? The Tree of Life shows up in Genesis and Revelation (2, 22). How does this image provide a promise and a blessing for today (John 10:10)?

Assignment:

Evaluate: If you were to stand before the Lord, what word of affirmation might He give to describe your life? What word of accusation might He have for you? What practical steps of action might you take to change the chilling loss of love in your heart? Are you willing to take those steps right now?

Act: One way to grow in love is to volunteer at Stonebridge. Think about the Volunteer Fair we hosted this weekend. Where might God be calling you to serve and use the gifts He gave you?