

Small Group Guide

Various Passages

From the sermon - Church Metaphors Part III



As for the mystery of the seven stars that you saw in my right hand, and the seven golden lampstands, the seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches.

Revelation 1:20

Discuss

1. The church of Ephesus was faithful to doing the work of the ministry. As a church, how do we stay faithful to God's purpose for Farmington? What is that purpose?
2. The church of Smyrna was poor, but Jesus called them rich. What makes a church truly rich? Would you say that Farmington is a "rich" church in this context?
3. The church of Pergamum stood for their belief in Jesus even in a place of considerable pressure (Rev. 2:13). Why is it important that we stand firm in our belief in Jesus with our own culture being so dark?
4. The church of Thyatira was commended for their love. What is so important about loving people as a church? How can you be a leader in showing love to your brothers and sisters at Farmington?
5. The Church of Sardis had the reputation of being alive but was actually dead. What are some signs of a church that is truly alive? What gives a church its life? (Rev 3:3)
6. The Church of Philadelphia had little strength but Jesus said he would open a door for them that no one could shut (Rev 3:8). How often do churches try to make their own way and open their own "doors"? Why is it so important to simply stay faithful and allow God to do the mighty work only He can do? Why is it so hard to sit back and trust Him to do the work we cannot do?
7. The church of Laodicea was neither hot nor cold, but Lukewarm. Are there areas of your own life in which you feel lukewarm? What can you do spiritually to get out of that state?

Pray

You are part Jesus' church. Pray that your heart is shaped by God into what He desires it to be so that you can reflect God's light as you shine bright for Him.

Do

1. Write down the areas of your life that are in line with the positives of the churches in Revelation.
2. Write down what areas of your life need attention and are not in line.
3. Begin praying that God shapes the areas of your life that need work and strengthens the areas that are in line with His desires so you can be a light that helps the church shine bright.

Next small group meets the week of October 7th