

A MESSAGE FOR THE CHURCH



Week Seven - To Laodicea

A Note to the Parents/Teachers

The book of Revelation can be a confusing and even scary book to many people. But it doesn't have to be! And it wasn't meant to be. Remember, it begins with "The revelation of Jesus Christ" (1:1) and ends with "Amen! Come, Lord Jesus!" (22:20). It's about the hope we have in Jesus restoring us into the Kingdom of God! Still, there are clear warnings for those who refuse Jesus. Let that be our focus as we lead our kids through these letters to the Church.

- **Big Idea:** Jesus wants us to see our need — so he can meet that need!

Starter

- **Evidences of Grace**

Ask kids to share ways they've seen God at work lately. Anything, big or small, which is good, is from God. When a kid shares, encourage everyone to thank God together.

- **Question**

On a hot day, would you drink cool refreshing water? On a cold day, would you want hot water to make tea or soup with? On any day, would you drink dirty water from a puddle that's been sitting in the street? Water is useful in so many ways, but when it's stagnant (sitting in dirt), it's not so useful.

Sing Together

Story - from Revelation 3:14-22

Jesus had come to John with a message for the church. He wanted John to write down his words and pass the letter on to seven specific churches in cities nearby. Even though it was written to a specific people a long time ago, God has preserved these words for us today because He still wants the church to hear this message.

For the final church, Jesus told John, *“Write to the angel of the church in Laodicea:*

This is what the Amen says, the faithful and true witness, the originator and ruler over God’s creation:

I know your works—that you are neither cold nor hot. Hot springs serve a purpose. Cold water is refreshing. I wish you were like one of these! But you are like stagnant water that has been sitting in a muddy bank. I want to vomit that out of my mouth.

You say, ‘I am rich and blessed because of my wealth. I don’t need anything!’ But you don’t realize how wretched, poor, pitiful, blind, and naked you are. I plead with you to trade what you think is wealth for my riches — to be refined in the fire like gold, clothed in white to cover your naked shame, and have ointment spread on your eyes to heal your blindness.

You know that I discipline the ones I love; that is why I am writing to you. Turn away from your sins and find your passion for my righteousness! Look, I’m standing and knocking at your door. Won’t you let me in? Those who hear my voice and open the door, I will enter and we will eat together. The one who overcomes will get to sit with me on my throne, just as the Father has welcomed me to his throne when I overcame sin and death.

Let anyone who has ears to hear listen to what the Spirit says to the churches.”

This was the only church that didn’t have anything good said about them. And it was because they had grown too comfortable and too prideful to see their need for Jesus. Jesus still loved them and wanted them to turn back to him before it was too late. To see their need and come to Jesus, so he could heal and rescue them.

[Dialogue Questions - you may use some or all]

- Laodicea was too comfortable to recognize they were in need. How can we relate to this in our lives today? What do we experience in our nation that makes us more comfortable than many who suffer?
- They were also prideful and thought that since they had wealth they must be blessed more than others by God. They had it backwards! What do you think is true blessing from God?
- How can we see our need for Jesus? Why do we need him?
- What message do you think Jesus has for us today?

Breakout Time

- **Prayer:**

God, without you we have no life. There is nothing good apart from you. Help us to see your goodness and remember we need you. Always. Amen.

- **Craft:**

- Use the attached coloring sheet from the Jesus Storybook Bible and talk about how Jesus invites us to come and eat with him
- OPTIONAL — you can use the last page attached to create a door that opens up to see Jesus. Color the door, then cut the top, bottom, and right side of it. Finally, paste that page over the coloring sheet of Jesus (don't glue the door so it's free to swing open).

BLESS Activity

For kids to do during the week

Because this Story is true, we want to be faithful to live in it. We ask Spirit to help us Bless, Listen, Eat, Speak, and Sabbath (rest & celebrate) in ways that tell the good news of God's Story.

This week, focus on the **Eat** rhythm. Jesus promised those who see their need for him will get to eat with him in the kingdom. Share a meal with someone in need this week as a preview of sitting at the table with Jesus.



