

## A MESSAGE FOR THE CHURCH



### Week Three - To Pergamum

#### **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 is better than any other source of satisfaction

#### **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**

Have you ever received a letter in the mail? What if Jesus sent you a letter... what do you think it would say?

#### **Sing Together**

**Story - from Revelation 2:12-17**

John continued to write down what he saw and heard from Jesus. Jesus had a message for his church. John saw him holding seven stars and standing among seven lamp stands. Jesus told him, *“The stars represent God’s messengers to the Church. The lamp stands represent the churches scattered throughout the world.”*

John was told to write down a message for the churches in seven large cities, but God’s Spirit preserved these messages so that followers of Jesus would read it for generations to come. Even though it was written to a specific people a long time ago, God still wants our church to hear this message today.

Jesus said, *“Write to the angel of the church in Pergamum:*

*These are the words of the One who has the sharp, double-edged sword: I know where you live—a place where Satan is worshipped. Yet you are still holding on to my Name and have not denied your faith in me. Even when they killed my faithful witness, Antipas, for following me in that city where Satan lives — you still claimed to be my people.*

*But I do have a few things against you. You have some with you who follow in the ways of the Nicolaitans and those who lead my people astray. They teach you to give in to desires of the body, thinking physical things will satisfy you instead of turning to Me for your needs. Some in your community are living like this. So repent! Turn away from those things and find satisfaction in the Lord. I’m coming soon and I will separate you with the sword of my mouth — those who are with me and those who are against me — and I will war against those who are not with me.*

*Let anyone who has ears to hear listen to what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who conquers, I will satisfy their needs with the Bread of Life. I will also give them a new name known by them and by me.”*

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The church in Pergamum was getting some things right, but mixed in the lifestyle of those who worshipped other gods and did things to make their bodies feel good in the moment, even if it went against God’s ways. Jesus’ double-edged sword meant that he would separate those who follow him from those who follow other gods. He wanted Pergamum to walk in his ways, so they could have eternal life with him! He wants that for you too.

*[Dialogue Questions - you may use some or all]*

- What do you think it means that Jesus had a double-edged sword coming from his mouth?
  - Usually when the Bible talks about a double-edged sword it's talking about God's Word, which makes sense why it's coming from Jesus' mouth
  - Double-edged seems to mean it's separating the ones who follow Jesus from the ones who don't — on one side of the sword is judgement for those who don't follow, while the other side is more like a scalpel a surgeon uses to bring healing
- Why did Jesus care about what the people found joy and satisfaction in, if they were still confessing Jesus with their words?
- Are there things in your life you look to make you feel better before going to Jesus? Do you believe Jesus is better?

### **Breakout Time**

- **Prayer:**

God, help us to truly follow your ways and not just say the right things. Help us to find our hope and joy and satisfaction in you alone. In Jesus' name, amen.

- **Craft:**

- Use the ears on the next page to color, cut out, and attach a pipe cleaner or long strip of paper from end to end to make a wearable headband. Talk about how we have ears to hear what Jesus is saying.
- OR — We just read a letter Jesus sent to a church long ago. Use the final page attached to have the kids write a letter to Jesus.

### **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 **Listen** rhythm. Jesus said, "Let anyone who has ears to hear listen to what the Spirit says..."

Take some time this week to listen to God's words. Read some of the Story, then pray asking God to speak, then listen.



