

## A MESSAGE FOR THE CHURCH



### Week Four - To Thyatira

#### **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 the Ruler over all things, including every part of us

#### **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.

- **Watch Video**

Take 5-6 minutes to show this BibleProject video, *Image of God*, on how we were meant to rule together with God: <https://youtu.be/YbipxLDtY8c>

#### **Sing Together**

### Story - from Revelation 2:18-29

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.

Jesus told John, “Write to the angel of the church in Thyatira (that was one of the cities back then):

*This is what the Son of God says, the one whose eyes are like a fiery flame and whose feet are like fine bronze:*

*I know your works—your love, faithfulness, service, and endurance. I know that your works have even gotten better with time!  
But I have this against you: You allow the ways of Jezebel to exist in your community. She teaches and deceives my servants to commit sinful acts. You know I created for one man and one woman to be committed to one another, so they can make families together — but Jezebel’s ways encourage men and women to have the type of relationship husbands and wives have with other people they are not married with.*

*I gave her time to turn away from this wrong way, but she does not want to. So, I will bring sickness on her and those who live like her will know great pain. Unless they repent of her works, I will strike her children with a plague. Then all the churches will know that I know the minds and hearts of all, and I will give to each of you according to your works.*

*For those of you who do not hold to her teaching, who don’t follow the ways of Satan — keep doing what you are doing and stay faithful until I come back. The one who conquers this sin and keeps my ways to the end: I will give them authority over the nations, as it says in Psalm 2 —*

***and he will rule them with an iron scepter;  
he will shatter them like pottery.***

*Just as I received authority from my Father, I will also give authority to those who follow me. Let anyone who has ears to hear listen to what the Spirit says to the churches.”*

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This church was doing a lot of good, but many of them hadn’t given their whole lives to Jesus and his ways. Jesus promises that when we make him the true Ruler over our lives, we get to become rulers alongside him over creation!

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

- The church in Thyatira was doing good with acts of love, faithfulness, service toward others, and endurance through hardship. What were they not doing well in?
- Do you remember who Jezebel was in the Old Testament?
  - *She was married to King Ahab of Israel and led the people to sin by worshipping false gods, eating food sacrificed to those gods, and having marriage-like relationships with people they weren't married*
  - Jezebel lived hundreds of years before letter was written. What do you think Jesus meant when he said they were following her teachings?
- Even though Thyatira was serving Jesus well in most ways, some of them had parts of their lives they didn't give up for Jesus. Are there any parts of your life you need to give over to Jesus and let him rule over?
- Jesus is the Ruler Psalm 2 talks about — the true King over all creation. He said he was given that authority by his Father. What do you think it means when he says he will now give authority to those who follow him? How can we rule alongside Jesus?

### **Breakout Time**

- **Prayer:**

God, help us to give you our entire lives. Every part of us. Be the King of our minds, bodies, and hearts. In the name of King Jesus, amen.
- **Craft:**
  - DIY Scepter craft. Take one sheet of colored paper and roll it up from left to right. Tape it so it stays closed as a roll. Take a second sheet of paper (use a different color) and crumble it into a ball. Tape the ball onto the rolled paper to create a scepter. Talk about how we get to rule creation alongside Jesus, when we submit to him as the True Ruler.
  - OR — use the coloring sheet attached

### **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. Ask your parents to take one meal this week to share with someone you don't normally eat with. During that meal, take time to thank God for all He provides.



TO HIM WHO LOVES  
US AND HAS FREED US  
FROM OUR SINS BY HIS BLOOD,  
AND HAS MADE US TO BE  
A KINGDOM AND PRIESTS  
TO SERVE HIS GOD AND FATHER—  
TO HIM BE GLORY  
AND POWER FOR EVER AND EVER!

REVELATION 1: 5-6

