

# OUTLINE & QUESTIONS

## RETURN TO YOUR FIRST LOVE

JIM NICODEM | MARCH 15 & 16, 2025

REVELATION 2:1-7

### Introduction

1. You \_\_\_\_\_ Hard, \_\_\_\_\_ Everything You Hear, and  
\_\_\_\_\_ In Hard Times.

- You \_\_\_\_\_ hard
- \_\_\_\_\_ everything you hear
- \_\_\_\_\_ in hard times

2. You Have Left Your \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_ What You Did at First

- \_\_\_\_\_ of affirmation
- Quality \_\_\_\_\_ together
- \_\_\_\_\_
- Acts of \_\_\_\_\_
- Physical \_\_\_\_\_

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR FAMILY, FRIENDS & GROUPS

---

**Icebreaker:** What is something you'd like to change about yourself--and why?

1. What have Christ followers historically focused on during the season of Lent (i.e. the 40 days leading up to Holy Week)? Why is this a beneficial exercise (multiple answers)? How does this exercise relate to the "Letters from Jesus" in Revelation 2 & 3?
2. Read the "Theme" and "Purpose" sections of the NIV Study Bible's intro to the book of Revelation. How does Revelation apply to Christ followers of every era?
3. Read Revelation 2:1. Who is the "angel" of each of the 7 churches that are sent letters from Jesus in Revelation 2 & 3 (two possibilities)? Turn to the NIV Study Bible's intro to Ephesians and read the section, "The City of Ephesus". Note three things about this ancient city. Why would it be difficult to follow Christ in this setting?
4. How does Jesus describe himself in Revelation 2:1? What do you learn from this description? What does Jesus threaten to do with churches that fail to reflect his light in their world? Why would Jesus do that?
5. Describe the three parts of the main body of each of the 7 churches in Revelation 2 & 3. Why is each part important?
6. Read Revelation 2:2, 3. Describe the three things for which Jesus praises the Ephesians (as summarized in the sermon). Which of these is most true of you? Explain. Which of these is least true of you? Explain.
7. Read Revelation 2:4. Make a list of traits that often characterize a person's first love for Christ. Which of these traits describe you in your early days of following Jesus?
8. What do you think causes Christ followers to lose their first love for Jesus? Which of these have been true of you? How might you counter them?
9. Read Revelation 2:5. What are "The 5 Love Languages" and what might each of them look like as an expression of our love for Jesus?
10. What two or three things do you most need to do in order to stoke the fire of your first love for Christ?