

# COMMIT TO MEMORY

For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake, he is the one who will save it. - Luke 9:24

# CONSIDER

We are now coming to our final church – the Church of Laodicea. Laodicea can best be described as an inauthentic church. It was comprised of people who were in it for themselves. The wealth in this community flowed, clothing was made and hospitals thrived with the latest techniques and advances in medicine, but true spirituality languished in the background of so-called more important material pursuits. This church wore a façade of what it meant to be a Christian authentically committed to Jesus Christ. They had the right externals-looked good, spoke well and raised their hands in worship, but they had the wrong internal motivation, conviction and authenticity. This neither hot nor cold church didn't make our Savior shrug His shoulders or turn His head in disappointment. The church of Laodicea made Him want to “spew” them right out of His mouth.

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# CONNECT

Remember to always open your group time together in prayer. Invite God's Spirit to manifest Himself fully in your midst, to soften your hearts and open your ears to His Word as well as to guard your lips—seasoning each person's speech as with salt. Keep specific prayer requests to be covered at the end of the meeting, if possible. This is a time to connect with each other and to connect with God as we open our time together.

*Share your responses to these questions as you open up your time of connection.*

What would you say has been the greatest benefit or principle you have gleaned from this study?

What are some of the things you have started to apply to your life as a result of this study?

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After this preliminary connecting time is completed, watch the DVD teaching by Pastor Evans on this session. Next, have someone read the discussion questions in the Concentrate section and guide the discussion.

# CONCENTRATE

*Use the following questions and Scripture passages to guide your discussion of the teaching you just experienced from Pastor Evans and the discussion from your group members.*

1. Read Revelation 3:14-22

What stands out to you as some of the worst things this church was doing?

2. Was there time for the church of Laodicea to repent? What would happen as a result of them repenting?

3. According to Revelation 3:18, what three things were these church members encouraged to do. What do you think these three things represent spiritually?

4. Based on Revelation 3:19, what does God do to those whom He loves? How have you experienced God's chastening in your life?

Notes

*(Use this space for personal notes on the lesson and discussion.)*

# CONVERGE

“be doers of the Word,  
not just hearers”  
- James 1:22

In this section, talk with the group about how you will apply the wisdom you’ve learned from the teaching and Bible study.

***Discuss the following questions:***

1. What role does personal sacrifice and authenticity play in overcoming?
2. In the video, Pastor Evans speaks on bringing secular success into the church and relying on it rather than on God. Share some approaches to balancing secular success and spiritual dependence?
3. How can you commit to becoming a more authentic believer?

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Focusing  
on practical  
applications of  
what we’ve  
learned in this  
lesson in  
order to better  
align our life  
choices with  
God’s truth  
and will.

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To close your time together, spend some time worshiping God together—praying, singing, reading Scripture. Use the Prayer and Praise to keep track of how God answers prayer.

# CONTINUE

Rest, and allow the Lord to lead you as you seek Him through His Word.

The following section is for you to use personally on your own as you continue in the week's topic throughout the next few days. Pray and ask the Lord to open your ears to truly hear His truth and apply it in your life. If you want to, feel free to write what you learn in the margins or in the Notes section of this week's lesson.

## Day 1

*Jesus said to him, "If you wish to be complete, go and sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me."*  
 - Matthew 19:21

### REFLECT:

What do you need to do, according to this verse, if you wish to be complete?

Describe the difference between treasure on earth and treasure in heaven?

Does following Jesus involve sacrifice? In what ways?

## Day 2

*Peter said, "Behold, we have left our own homes and followed You." And He said to them, "Truly I say to you, there is no one who has left house or wife or brothers or parents or children, for the sake of the kingdom of God, who will not receive many times as much at this time and in the age to come, eternal life."* - Luke 18:28-30

### REFLECT:

What does Jesus say about anything you have given up for Him?

Does this only apply to eternity or does it also refer to earthly success?

In what ways are you giving God the opportunity to reward you on earth and in eternity?

## Day 3

*And all those who had believed were together and had all things in common; and they began selling their property and possessions and were sharing them with all, as anyone might have need.* - Acts 2:44-45

### REFLECT:

Describe the church of Acts 2?  
 Is giving out of your excess the same as giving of your own possessions?

In what ways do you strive to meet the needs of those around you?

## Day 4

*So then, none of you can be My disciple who does not give up all his own possessions.* - Luke 14:33

### REFLECT:

What does this verse mean?

What is your heart's viewpoint on your own possessions?

In what ways can you adjust your thoughts, mindsets and choices to better reflect the spirit of self-sacrifice Christ calls His followers to pursue?

## Day 5

*For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake, he is the one who will save it.* - Luke 9:24

### REFLECT:

What does it mean to lose your life for Christ's sake?

What are some ways in which you are willing to lay down your personal ambitions and desires in order to surrender all to God?

In what way(s) can you increase your level of sacrifice for God?