

COMMIT TO MEMORY

For by their own sword they did not possess the land, And their own arm did not save them, But Your right hand and Your arm and the light of Your presence, For You favored them. - Psalm 44:3

CONSIDER

The church at Philadelphia was not wealthy, powerful or even significant. Yet in the message to this church, we discover another key to living with earthly success. When by the world's standards you lack authority, recognition or notoriety, if you have access to Christ's keys you can accomplish anything He desires for you to do!

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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 was a major thought or concept that stands out to you from last week?

How have you begun to incorporate that principle into your everyday life?

Are there any specific needs you are bringing to the study this week?

This is a time to connect with each other and to connect with God as we open our time together.

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 3:7-13

Why does God promise to put before the church at Philadelphia an “open door”?

What is the open door?

2. Read Psalm 110:1

What does it mean for your enemies to be made as your footstool?

3. According to verse 9, how will Jesus vindicate these believers?

4. Based on the video teaching, what was the example of the special recognition Jesus says He will give to those at the church of Philadelphia if they “hold fast” to what they have?

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. In the video teaching, Pastor Evans talks about what the church at Philadelphia had to overcome?

Since they were not judged for anything, what was it they had to overcome?

2. Pastor Evans referred to the incident at Trailways Bus Station. Describe a time in your life when you did “the right thing” and suffered consequences because of it but later saw God turn it around.

3. What role does faithfulness, obedience and perseverance play in overcoming?

4. Have you witnessed God promote you or someone you know who had “little power” by the world’s standards and yet God continued to open the doors of influence and impact for them? What do you think set this person, or yourself, apart to receive this favor? Based upon the testimony of the church at Philadelphia, how can you position yourself for God to open more doors for you?

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.

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

Trust in the Lord with all your heart And do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He will make your paths straight. - Proverbs 3:5-6

REFLECT:

What does it look like to you to "acknowledge" God?

In what areas of your life do you need to depend on God more so than your own understanding?

What does God promise to do when we depend on Him for guidance and deliverance?

Day 2

I will lift up my eyes to the mountains; From where shall my help come? My help comes from the Lord, Who made heaven and earth. - Psalm 121:1,2

REFLECT:

Is there a specific situation in your life in which you need God to intervene?

Spend time in prayer asking God to provide His help, but also verbally commit to trust God no matter what the circumstances might look like.

Day 3

He gives strength to the weary, And to him who lacks might He increases power. - Isaiah 40:29

REFLECT:

What does God do for the person who lacks might?

Do you feel weary in an area of your life? Ask the Lord to give you strength and to confirm His strength in you this very week in an obvious way.

Day 4

But who am I and who are my people that we should be able to offer as generously as this? For all things come from You, and from Your hand we have given You. - 1 Chronicles 29:14

REFLECT:

Do you carry a spirit of humility and gratitude for the things God has done for you and in you?

In what ways can you adjust your thoughts, mindsets and choices to better reflect a spirit of utter dependency on the Lord?

Day 5

For by their own sword they did not possess the land, And their own arm did not save them, But Your right hand and Your arm and the light of Your presence, For You favored them. - Psalm 44:3

REFLECT:

What does it look like to receive God's favor?

Take a moment to thank the Lord for every door He has opened for you and every door He has shut of the enemy's attacks on you.