to the church

September - October Teaching Series



Group Guide

A Study on the Word of Jesus to the
7 Churches of Revelation

Philadelphia

Week 7

Reflect

Take some time to process together as a group on last week's practice:

- How did you start practicing what we talked about last week?
- How was your experience in your practice?
- Where did you feel God most present and distant this week?

Overview

The church in Philadelphia reminds us that **true strength is resilience, not significance.** In Revelation 3:7–13, Jesus commends a church with little earthly strength that nevertheless remains faithful to His Word and endures patiently through opposition. In a culture where the church can be tempted to chase relevance, power, and influence, Philadelphia shows us a different way: trusting Jesus, who holds the key to every open and closed door. Our influence does not depend on how big, powerful, or culturally significant we become, but on our faithfulness to Jesus. As we wait for His return and pray for renewal in our communities, we are invited to hold on to what we have, live faithfully in our everyday lives, and trust that God will accomplish His purposes in His time.



Reading

Revelation 3:7-8 NIV

7 To the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: These are the words of him who is holy and true, who holds the key of David. What he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open. 8 I know your deeds. See, I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut. I know that you have little strength, yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name.

Discussion

1. Revelation 3:7 describes Jesus as the One who opens doors no one can shut and shuts doors no one can open. How does this picture of Jesus challenge the way we pursue opportunities?

2. How can we faithfully represent Jesus to our neighbors, coworkers, and friends without trying to prove our significance?
3.
4. Share about a time when a door closed in your life—a job opportunity, a relationship, a ministry opportunity, or a personal dream. How did you respond, and what did that experience teach you about trusting God?

5. What is one area of your life where God may be inviting you to practice patient endurance rather than striving for immediate results?

6. What ordinary, faithful step is God inviting me to take this week?



Practice

Rhythm of Retreat & Return (Half Day - 4hrs / Full Day -7hrs)

Jesus often withdrew to be with God to come back into his life differently. This rhythm of personal retreat into the quiet is also an invitation for those who follow him.

Find a quiet park, a room or out somewhere in nature. Slow down, rest, notice your body, heart and mind. Take deep breaths, take slow walks or sit in stillness for a moment.

Pay attention to: “What am I trying to control at the moment? What is Jesus inviting me to surrender?”

Closing Prayer

“Abba Father, thank You for loving us and calling us back to You. Forgive us for the times we have cared more about our reputation than our relationship with Jesus. Wake up our hearts, renew our love for You, and help us surrender our own plans. Jesus, You are our Source, King, and Lord. Teach us to trust You, obey You, and seek Your Kingdom first. Help us become a faithful people who love You and reflect Your Kingdom in our homes, our church, and our community. In Jesus' name, amen.”

Further Resources

Watch: To the Church Teaching Series - Abbalove Church
Watch: Revelation Teaching Series (2026) - Abbalove Church
Read: Revelation for the rest of us - Scot McKnight
Read / Listen: 5 Strategies for reading revelation - Bible Project



Dear Church



“Write on the scroll what you see and send it to the church”

- Jesus

www.abbalovechurch.com