to the church

September - October Teaching Series



Group Guide

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

Laodicea

Week 8

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

In Revelation 3:14–22, Jesus confronts the church in Laodicea for its **lukewarm spiritual condition, exposing the danger of self-sufficiency and the inability to recognize its true need for God.** The Laodiceans believed their wealth, resources, and independence meant they lacked nothing, yet Jesus revealed that they were spiritually poor, blind, and naked. Their greatest problem was not simply a lack of passion, but a false sense of spiritual security that kept them from honestly facing their need for Christ. Yet Jesus' rebuke comes from love, not rejection. He invites the church to repent and return to genuine fellowship with Him. Through Jesus' honest and vulnerable prayer in Gethsemane (Matthew 26:36–39), we learn that authentic prayer begins by making room for our pain, bringing our desires honestly before God, and surrendering our trust to Him. The invitation is to stop hiding behind self-sufficiency, create intentional space to encounter God, and learn to pray honestly from wherever we truly are.



Reading

Revelation 3:15-18 NIV

15 I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! 16 So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth. 17 You say, 'I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.' But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked. 18 I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see.

Discussion

1. What stands out to you about Jesus' words to the church in Laodicea? What do you think the church misunderstood about itself?

2. What feelings have you been carrying that you have not honestly brought before God?

3. The Laodiceans believed they were rich and needed nothing. What are some ways we can become self-sufficient in our relationship with God?

4. What are some things we use to distract, numb, or avoid ourselves when we don't want to face what's happening inside us?

5. In verse 20, Jesus stands at the door and knocks. In the context of this passage, He is speaking to a church that needs to welcome Him back into its fellowship. What would it look like for you to open the door to Jesus in a fresh way this week?



Practice

ABBALOVE

The Gethsemane Prayer (8-10 mins)

Find a quiet place where you can be still with God. Rather than trying to pray the "right" words, come as you are and move through these three steps:

- **Give God Your Feelings**

Name your emotions honestly before God

- **Give God Your Desires**

What do you deeply desire God would change in you?

- **Give God Your Trust**

Surrender to God by praying: Not my will but your will be done

Closing Prayer

"Father, thank You that we don't have to pretend to be strong or have everything together before coming to You. Forgive us for the times we have relied on ourselves and neglected our relationship with You. Teach us to bring You our true feelings, our deepest desires, and the things we struggle to surrender. Help us receive Your correction as an expression of Your love and welcome You into every part of our lives. May we become a people who walk in honesty, dependence, and trust in You. 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