

# Day 1

August 26



*Pray | For your faith to endure through all your life's experiences*

THE BOOK of Revelation is often described as dark, cautionary, intimidating, mystical, or full of dread. It might be one of the most avoided books in the bible and some churches tend to avoid teaching it.

While there are some portions in Revelation that might seem frightening or intimidating, it is actually full of hope, beauty, and God's promises! It is a reaffirmation of what God has been asking his creation since the beginning of time, "Do you love me?"



*Read | John 21:15-19, Revelation 1:17-18*



*Reflect | Spend some time reflecting on one or more of the following:*

The next few days of scripture readings in Revelation 2 & 3 will contain God's warnings to the seven churches to repent of their sins. Simply put, he is asking his followers, "Do you love me?" Take time this week and pose that question to yourself, as if from God; confess and repent of your sins. Does this affect the way you pray, confess, or converse with God?

Jesus, as revealed in Revelation 1:17-18, is far from dreadful. Jesus returns because he loves his people! Read this week's scripture verses with this description of Jesus in mind and discover if it changes any negative notions you might have about the Book of Revelation.

All throughout the Bible, God repeatedly asks us to love him through all of our successes and sufferings. Have there been any sufferings you have endured that have tested your faith or love in God? How did you maintain your faith and love for him?

## *Day 2*

*August 27*



### *Pray / Repent of your sins*

RIGHT AND moral living are great traits for Christians to uphold. However, these attributes should not take precedence over true love for God or God's grace. Good morals and "right" living do not exempt any of God's people from sin and the need to repent of sin.



### *Read / Revelation 2:1-7*



### *Reflect / Spend some time reflecting on one or more of the following:*

In the letter to the Church in Ephesus, Jesus seems to indicate they were probably a "good" church doing many "good" things. Jesus commended the good of that church but rebuked them for some of their deeds apart from God. What are some ways in which you have attempted good or moral living apart from God and what resulted?

How and why do we move away from our love for Christ and others at times? Spend time in prayer daily and ask Jesus to reaffirm your love for him.

Repenting of sin can be challenging for even the most devoted Christians. For some, the challenge might be failing to recognize sin creeping into their life. What are some of the challenges you face in repenting of your sins?

## Day 3

August 28



*Pray / Ask God for the strength to live just for him*

JESUS NEVER said following him would be easy. Christians are susceptible to unholy influences both internally and externally. These influences can sometimes encourage us to lead what might be called a double life.



*Read / Revelation 2:12-29*



*Reflect / Spend some time reflecting on one or more of the following:*

Jesus seems to indicate in the letters to churches of Pergamum and Thyatira, that some of their people might have been living a double life; following God in some areas of life and allowing sinful living in other areas. What are some of the ways in which you believe today's Christian Church might lead a double life?

The influence of the world on today's Christian Church and its members cannot be overstated. Has the influence of the world ever separated you from God in any way? Reflect on the reasons for why this might be and ask God for the courage to stand up for him, reject sin, and endure in your faith.

As you pray for endurance in your faith, know that God never gives up on his people. It is sometimes said that the Book of Revelation focuses only on judgement or retribution. However, this is not true! Revelation also focuses on reaching the lost. As mentioned in the letter to Thyatira, Jezebel was given time to repent of her sins even though she was a very sinful person. Do you sometimes feel like God has given up on you? How might today's scripture verses change these feelings?

*Day 4*  
*August 29*



*Pray / Realign your focus on Jesus*

SOMETIMES A church can have a great outward appearance or a good reputation. Appearances and reputations might be a good indicator of a Christ-centered, Bible-teaching church. However, it certainly is not a guarantee.



*Read / Revelation 3:1-6*



*Reflect / Spend some time reflecting on one or more of the following:*

The church in Sardis may have seemed almost perfect to its members and outsiders. However, Jesus reminds them, and ultimately us, that he knows what is truly in the hearts of his people. How might today's scripture verses transform how you define a "good" church? How might they change how you define a "good" Christian?

Jesus said to the people of the church in Sardis that their deeds made their reputation appear to others as if they were "alive." Then, Jesus went on to state that they were really "dead" and they needed to wake up. It is not specifically stated where the church in Sardis was falling short. Spend time in prayer and ask God what areas of your spiritual life might need revival.

Jesus, once again, shatters the reputation of dreadfulness that the Book of Revelation has for some. He loved the people of the church in Sardis so much he offered them beautiful hope and a chance to repent. He wanted those people to love him enough to repent of their sins. Do you love Jesus enough to repent of your sins? How might repentance be a way to revive your spirit?

*Day 5*  
*August 30*



*Pray / Tell God you love him*

IT MIGHT be easy to read the letters to the seven churches in these early chapters of the Book of Revelation in disbelief and wonder how these churches strayed so far from God.

The Christian Church is not so different today. Jesus loves us enough to have revealed these letters to us and allow us to apply them to our daily lives. We face many of the same internal and external influences as did the seven churches.

Jesus asked them repeatedly to repent just as he asks today's Christians. He repeatedly asks us, "Do you love me?"



*Read / Revelation 3:14-22, John 21:15-19*



*Reflect / Spend some time reflecting on one or more of the following:*

If you do not yet have a relationship with Jesus Christ it is important to know that Jesus loves you just as much as he does the most scholarly Bible teacher. Anything is possible with Jesus—even eternal life. There is no one that is impossible for Jesus' love to reach. Spend time in prayer today—ask Jesus into your heart, confess and repent your sins, and tell Jesus you love him.

In Revelation 3:17 Jesus says, "Those who I love I rebuke and discipline." As we faithfully wait for the day of Christ's return, we have writings like the letter to the church in Laodicea at our constant disposal to encourage and warn us and to serve as a reminder that Jesus loves us. Being Bible-literate is vital in being reminded of and understanding of the depths of Christ's love. Where else in your life are you reminded of Christ's love, his impending return, and the need to repent?

What encouragement or mentoring have you provided others in reminding them of the love of Jesus? If you feel like mentoring and encouraging are not yet part of your faith journey, seek out a small group leader, a pastor, or a trusted Christian and ask about ways to include mentoring and encouragement in your daily activities.

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