

**Dear Future Church - Ephesus**  
*Scripture & Background Info for the week of Feb. 11<sup>th</sup>.*

To prepare for your group discussion each week, group members should use the **Community Group Discussion Guide** to complete the **GOD'S WORDS** and **MY WORDS** columns using the scripture below.

***Revelation 2:1-7 Context***

“The revelation of Jesus Christ” (1:1) was probably written by the apostle John while in exile on the island of Patmos, off the coast of present-day Turkey. It was addressed to seven actual churches. Revelation begins with letters from Christ himself to these churches, letters that include commendation, criticism, and comfort. Then comes a long series of visions of judgment on the wicked, all in highly symbolic language. The church is depicted under great distress but is assured of the final triumph of Jesus as “King of kings and Lord of lords” (19:16), bringing to an end the rebellion of humanity and ushering in “a new heaven and a new earth” (21:1), where God himself will reign forever and ever (11:15). Revelation was probably written a.d. 95–96. (ESV Study Bible)

*The City of Ephesus*

At the time this letter was written, Ephesus was a major city of Asia Minor, a seaport, and the location of the great temple of Artemis (cf. Acts 19:24, 27–28, 34–35), one of the seven wonders of the ancient world. Paul had visited Ephesus about a.d. 53, about 43 years before this letter in Revelation was sent to them. Paul remained in Ephesus for several years and preached the gospel so effectively “that all the Jews and Greeks who lived in the province of Asia heard the word of the Lord” (Acts 19:10). This large city was thoroughly stirred by Paul’s message (Acts 19:11–41), with the result that the silversmiths created a riot because their business of making shrines of Artemis was threatened.

(Bible Knowledge Commentary)

*Questions for Discussion*

1. In verse 2, John commends the church for testing and calling out false prophets. What are the false prophets in our life? And how do we test them?
2. In verse 4, John calls the church out for abandoning their first love. What do you think he means by this statement? What can make it so easy to have happen to you?
3. In verse 5, John calls the church to repent and do the works they did at first, otherwise there will be consequences. Are there things in your life distracting you from following God or that you need to turn away from? Describe what your walk with the Lord looked like as you first trusted in Christ? Anything that you need to practice once again?