

Dear Future Church - Pergamum
Scripture & Background Info for the week of Feb. 25th.

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 2:12-17 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 Pergamum

The third church was in Pergamum or Pergamos, about 20 miles inland from Smyrna. Like Ephesus and Smyrna it was a wealthy city, but it was wicked. People in its pagan cults worshiped Athena, Asclepius, Dionysus, and Zeus. Pergamum was famous for its university with a library of about 200,000 volumes, and for manufacturing parchment resulting in a paper called *pergamena*. The atmosphere of this city was adverse to any effective Christian life and testimony. (Bible Knowledge Commentary)

Questions for Discussion

1. In verse 13, John commends the believers for standing firm in the faith despite persecution that led to the death of Antipas. What does it look like for us to stand firm in our faith in our culture today?
2. John calls out several different teachings that were leading believers astray. What kind of things try to lead us astray from God? (Teachings, philosophies, theologies, etc.)
3. Jesus’ message to them provides both a warning and encouragement. In seasons of trials or struggle, why are both of those things so important? How have both of those looked in seasons of trials in your life?