

Dear Future Church - Philadelphia
Scripture & Background Info for the week of March 17th.

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 3:7-13 Context

Philadelphia was a city designed by the Roman Empire to sit on the Eastern end of it and be a beacon proclaiming good news to the Eastern end of the empire and those outside of it. It was supposed to be this, but never quite lived up to it. It kept experiencing earthquakes that would cripple its growth and cause it to abandon its purpose. At the time of the writing it was more of an Island of Misfit toys than a city proclaiming good news.

Summary of the Message to Philadelphia

The Lord sent the letter to the church in Philadelphia to praise the Christians for their faithfulness in spite of persecution and to encourage them to persevere (Constable).

Questions for Discussion

- How does the promise of being kept from the hour of trial in Revelation 3:10 apply to the church in Philadelphia, and what can believers today learn from this assurance?
- In Revelation 3:11, Jesus exhorts the church in Philadelphia to hold fast to what they have. What does this mean for believers in terms of their faith and commitment to following Christ?
- Why do you think Jesus commends the church in Philadelphia for their faithfulness and obedience, even though they had "little power" (Revelation 3:8)?
- What can we learn from the example of the church in Philadelphia about persevering in the face of opposition and remaining steadfast in our faith?