## **Journal Page**

- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
- What does this story teach me about myself?
- Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God's glory and my good?
- Are there any promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?
- How does this story help me to live on mission better?

## **FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS**

- What kind of letter do you think Jesus might have for our church?
- How do you think the churches felt reading the warnings?
- How do you think they felt reading the encouragements?

## **Letters to the Seven Churches**

Revelation 2-3

## STORY POINT: JESUS TOLD CHURCHES TO NOT GIVE UP

The apostle John was on the island of Patmos when he had a vision of Jesus. Jesus told John to write down a message for seven churches. So that is what John did. "To the church in Ephesus: You do not love well like you did when you first believed. Turn back and love like you used to.

"To the church in Smyrna: You are poor and are suffering, but really you are rich!

"To the church in Pergamum: You are faithful to Me, and you tell others about Me even when it is hard. But not everyone in the church is doing the right thing. Turn away from your sin and turn back to Me!

"To the church in Thyatira: I know about your love, faithfulness, and service. Keep believing the truth until I come.

"To the church in Sardis: People think you are alive, but you are actually dead. Turn from your sin and remember the gospel.

"To the church in Philadelphia: You have little power, but you listen to Me and obey My word. I am coming soon. Be ready and keep believing.

"To the church in Laodicea: You are lukewarm—not hot or cold, so you are not good for anything. I will spit you out!"

Jesus said, "See! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with Me." Jesus will reward every faithful and obedient believer.

and obedient believer.

Christ Connection: Jesus loves the church. His message to seven local churches called them to turn away from their sin and remain faithful to Him. We can learn from those churches. Through the church, Jesus helps believers work together to do God's plan.





