

Just Like Him

2025-08-04 • PASTOR MATT ROSE



Revelation 3:14-22

FOR THE LEADER

These questions help you run the conversation. They are not your study. Get into the passage yourself first, because your group needs what God taught you, not just a list of questions. These also lean on Sunday's message, so a few will not land for anyone who missed it. Watch it before you lead.

WHAT THE MESSAGE WAS ABOUT

Laodicea had no water of its own. It piped water in from far away, and by the time it arrived it was lukewarm and full of sediment. Jesus used the city's own plumbing against it: you are neither cold nor hot. Wealth had convinced that church it needed nothing, when it was actually poor and blind. Pastor Matt ended with a line from the philosopher Kierkegaard, that a pure heart wills one thing, and named his one thing: simply to be like Jesus.

To get started

- What is something you thought you had covered, and it turned out you did not?

Looking back at the message

The local detail makes the letter land. Make sure everyone has it.

- 1 Laodicea's water arrived lukewarm because it traveled from far away. What does that picture say about distance from God?
- 2 Pastor Matt said you can be at the top of your game as a person and still be running on empty spiritually. Where do you see that around you, or in you?
- 3 Pastor Matt pointed out that cold water at least takes effort to make. Lukewarm just happens on its own. What is worse about lukewarm faith? OPTIONAL

Looking at the passage

Read Revelation 3:14-22 aloud. Verse 19 changes the temperature of the whole letter.

- 4 Read Revelation 3:15-17. What does this church say about itself, and what does Jesus say about it?
- 5 Verse 18 offers three things to buy from Jesus. What are they, and how do they match what Laodicea was famous for?
- 6 Verse 19 gives the reason for the strong words. What is it?
- 7 Verse 20 has Jesus standing outside a church, knocking. What do you make of that picture?

Bringing it home

Self-sufficiency is admired everywhere else. That is what makes it hard here.

- 8 Where has being capable made you less dependent on God?
- 9 Laodicea rebuilt after an earthquake without anyone's help and bragged about it on their coins. What is our modern version of that?
- 10 Kierkegaard said a pure heart wills one thing. If you had to pick just one thing to aim your life at, what would you honestly choose?
- 11 Where are you lukewarm right now, neither cold nor hot? OPTIONAL

The group together

This letter is written to a church, not to individuals. Keep it there.

- 12 This letter is written to a whole church, not one person. What would a lukewarm group feel like from the inside?
- 13 Jesus stands outside and knocks. What would opening the door look like for a group?
- 14 If being like Jesus were this group's single aim, what would change first?

BEFORE YOU FINISH

If you willed only one thing this year, what would it be?

You might pray about

- For honesty about where we are self-sufficient
- For those who have everything and feel nothing
- For a rebuke received as love rather than rejection
- For a single aim rather than a scattered one