

First Love First

2025-06-22 • PASTOR MATT ROSE



Revelation 2:1-7

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

The church in Ephesus had everything you could measure: sound doctrine, hard work, endurance. And Jesus still said: you have abandoned your first love. Pastor Matt made the uncomfortable point that being right is not the same as being in love. He offered two readings of first love, the love you had at the beginning, and the love that should come first. Either way, the prescription Jesus gives is the same: remember, repent, and do the first things again.

To get started

- What is something you used to love doing that has turned into a routine?

Looking back at the message

This church did everything right. That is what makes it unsettling.

- 1 Ephesus was doctrinally sound, hardworking, and enduring, and still got this letter. What does that tell you about what Jesus measures?
- 2 Pastor Matt offered two readings of first love: the love you had at first, and the love that should come first. Which reading hits you harder, and why?
- 3 Paul wrote that knowledge puffs up while love builds up. Where have you seen the first without the second? OPTIONAL

Looking at the passage

Read Revelation 2:1-7 aloud. The commendation is long before the complaint arrives.

- 4 Read Revelation 2:2-3. What does Jesus praise about this church? Count the items.
- 5 Verse 4 names the problem in one sentence. What is it?
- 6 Verse 5 gives three instructions. What are they, and why that order?
- 7 Read 1 John 4:19. Where does love start, according to that verse? OPTIONAL

Bringing it home

Remember is the first instruction. Give people room to actually remember.

- 8 What did your faith feel like when it was brand new?
- 9 Jesus says: do the things you did at first. What were those things for you?
- 10 Where has being right become more important to you than loving well?
- 11 What would remembering look like this week, as opposed to just trying harder? OPTIONAL

The group together

A group can be right and cold at the same time. That is the risk here.

- 12 How could this group be correct about everything and still miss the point?
- 13 What does love actually look like in this group, in practice rather than in theory?
- 14 Who could you show unexpected kindness to this week?

BEFORE YOU FINISH

What is one of the first things you used to do that you could start doing again?

You might pray about

- For love that has gone cool without anyone noticing
- For endurance that has become mere habit
- For the memory of when it was new
- For love put first rather than assumed