

The Faithful Follower

2025-07-27 • PASTOR MATT ROSE



Luke 4

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

Of the seven churches in Revelation, Philadelphia is the small one, and it is the one Jesus has nothing but praise for. You have little strength, he says, yet you have kept my word. Pastor Matt's point: Jesus is after faith, not size. The letter reaches back to Isaiah 22 for its images, a key that opens what no one can shut, a peg driven into a firm place. And the promise at the end is remarkable. Those who hold on become pillars, and they receive a new name. Which means the old name, whatever it was, does not have to follow you.

To get started

- What is a name or label you were given that stuck longer than it should have?

Looking back at the message

The new name is the part people carry out. Start there or end there.

- 1 Jesus promises the faithful a new name, and Pastor Matt said the old one does not have to follow you. What did that stir up in you?
- 2 Philadelphia was small and had little power, and Jesus had zero complaints about it. What does that do to how we usually measure a church?
- 3 Pastor Matt said his own way out of sin has been pursuing Christ rather than fighting the sin head on. What is the difference between those two strategies? OPTIONAL

Looking at the passage

Read Revelation 3:7-13 aloud, and Isaiah 22:22 alongside it.

- 4 Read Revelation 3:8. What does Jesus say he knows about this church, and what has he placed in front of them?
- 5 Read Isaiah 22:22. What is the image of the key, and why would Jesus borrow it for this letter?
- 6 Verse 12 promises two things: becoming a pillar and receiving a new name. What does each one say to a church that feels small?
- 7 Read Daniel 3:16-18. The three men say God can save them, but even if he does not, they will not bow. What makes that sentence so rare? OPTIONAL

Bringing it home

New name is not positive thinking. Anchor it in what Jesus says, not in effort.

- 8 If you had to name the old name you have been carrying, what would it be? You do not have to say it out loud.
- 9 Even if he does not is a hard sentence to actually mean. Where would it cost you the most to say it?
- 10 Holding fast is easy to picture in a crisis. What does it look like in a season where nothing dramatic is happening?
- 11 Where have you been measuring your faith by size and results rather than by faithfulness?

OPTIONAL

The group together

A pillar holds something up for other people. Use that.

- 12 A pillar holds up something bigger than itself. Who has been a pillar for you?
- 13 Pastor Matt said people can show up for community and still sit in isolation. How true is that here?
- 14 If you could speak a new name over someone in this group, what would it be?

BEFORE YOU FINISH

What would change this week if you actually went by the new name instead of the old one?

You might pray about

- For those still answering to an old name
- For small and faithful things that no one is counting
- For endurance when God does not intervene the way we hoped
- For people in this group who feel unseen