



What He Said Week 5 – What Jesus Said... About The Church Spiritual Formation Guide

We hope you'll use this guide to take the teaching from Sunday's service and reflect on it with a few friends or a group. If you have questions or want to talk more about how to take the next spiritual step, contact us at info@wschurch.org.

Scripture:

"I will build my church, and all the powers of hell will not conquer it."

Matthew 16:18

"Write this letter to the angel of the church in Ephesus. This is the message from the one who holds the seven stars in his right hand, the one who walks among the seven gold lampstands:

²"I know all the things you do. I have seen your hard work and your patient endurance. I know you don't tolerate evil people. You have examined the claims of those who say they are apostles but are not. You have discovered they are liars. ³You have patiently suffered for me without quitting.

⁴"But I have this complaint against you. You don't love me or each other as you did at first! ⁵Look how far you have fallen! Turn back to me and do the works you did at first. If you don't repent, I will come and remove your lampstand from its place among the churches. ⁶But this is in your favor: You hate the evil deeds of the Nicolaitans, just as I do.

⁷"Anyone with ears to hear must listen to the Spirit and understand what he is saying to the churches. To everyone who is victorious I will give fruit from the tree of life in the paradise of God."

Revelation 2:1-7

Reflection Questions:

- What's one thing you really loved as a kid or as a young adult? Why do you think you were so interested in it?
- What stood out to you from Sunday's service? How did you sense God encouraging and challenging you through the songs, the message, and being with others as part of the church? (The message's main points and scripture are listed below if it helps you think back.)
- Read Matthew 16:18 to hear one thing Jesus said about the church. (If you want to, read more of Matthew 16 in verses 13-20 for context.) How do you react to Jesus' words about the church?

- Eddie shared a bit about the church in Ephesus, referenced in a letter in the book of Revelation. Read Revelation 2:1-7. (If you have time, read it in the NLT, NASB, and Message paraphrase.)
 - What do you notice about this specific church?
 - How do you think the church in Ephesus would have reacted to hearing this letter?
 - How do Jesus' words to them challenge you today?
- How would you describe your own level of love for God and love for other people? Take a moment to reflect on your own, and then share as much as you're willing with others.
- Eddie shared, "don't let yourself lose your first love." If you're feeling a lack of love for either God or other people, is there one thing you can do this week that a person who loves God and others would do? Or is there something that you used to do to connect with God and to show love for others that you haven't done in a while?
- How do you want to prepare for the celebration of Easter this week? Is there a time you can set aside to pause and spend some extra time with God during Holy Week?
- Take time to close your group with prayer.

Join us for Easter at West Side on April 8-9th & invite a friend to join you!

Find full details, invitations, and Holy Week opportunities at www.wschurch.org/easter.

Want some resources and ideas for how to grow spiritually? Visit www.wschurch.org/resources to see some of the tools that our team is recommending.

Message Main Points and Scripture:

- **The church is what Jesus says it is**
- Matthew 16:18 - "I will build my church, and all the powers of hell will not conquer it."
- Romans 8:37 - "Despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us."
- **Every church is either a Jesus church or a bogus church**
- Revelation 1:1-2 - "This is a revelation from Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants the events that must soon take place. He sent an angel to present this revelation to his servant John, who faithfully reported everything he saw. This is his report of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ."
- **The Bible can be quoted correctly, while being interpreted incorrectly.**
- 2 Timothy 2:15 - "Be a good worker... who correctly explains the word of truth."
- **Jesus sends a message to the church in Ephesus.**
- Revelation 2:1 - "Write this letter to the angel of the church in Ephesus. This is the message from the one who holds the seven stars in his right hand, the one who walks among the seven gold lampstands."
- Revelation 2:2 - "I know all the things you do. I have seen your hard work and your patient endurance. I know you don't tolerate evil people."
- Revelation 2:4 - "But I have this complaint against you. You don't love me or each other as you did at first! Look how far you have fallen! Turn back to me and do the works you did at first. If you don't repent, I will come and remove your lampstand from its place among the churches."
- **Knowing must result in doing.**
- **Don't grow out of the things that helped you grow up in your faith.**
- **Two commitments I want to make to you today:**
 - I will love you.
 - I will also challenge you.