

## Life Group Curriculum

### SHARE AN EXPERIENCE:

Share with the group a time in your life when you went through something harsh in order to have a better situation moving forward.

---

### GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

We are in the second week of our series “Committed” where we are studying the 7 churches of Revelation. Last week we looked at the Church of Ephesus who followed Jesus and served him, but they had forgotten the love they first had when they first knew him. This week we study the Church of Smyrna. Again, this church loved and followed Jesus, but was given a warning, “Do not fear what you are about to suffer.” But how would you respond if those same words were said to you today? Would you be able to Suffer Well and suffer for His glory?

### Answer as many questions as time allows:

1. Take a moment to talk about this weekend’s message and what stood out to you the most.
2. Have you ever had to “suffer” for your faith? We don’t think much of religious suffering in America, but take some time and talk about what does “suffering” for Christ look like today and in our society? As a Christian, what is your role to play when you either witness someone suffering persecution or you yourself fall prey to it?
3. Read Revelation 2:9. Poverty is a real problem in the world today and in America most of us often times say we don’t have “enough”, or we want more. But as you read this verse, what is Jesus referring to when He says that the Church in Smyrna, and to us today, are rich? How would you define your “riches” here in this life and in eternity?

**Supporting Scripture:** Revelation 2:8-11; James 1:2-3, 12; 1Peter 4:12-13; John 16:33; Psalm 23, 34:19, 119:71

---

### MEMORY VERSE:

James 1:12 – “Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him.”

---

### FOR PERSONAL DEVOTIONAL (OPTIONAL):

1. Be in prayer this week for our foreign missionaries and Christians around the world who are suffering and facing persecution. While we live in a free America where our rights to freedom of religion are protected, many in foreign lands don’t have the same freedom. Pray that they would remain faithful and know that this world is temporary. Pray that they, and we, would keep our eyes on the hope of eternity and the joy of knowing Jesus Christ! Amen
2. Read Daniel 1:12-15 and let’s dig deeper in what it is to be tested for God’s sake and what it means to be rich. It is fitting that we read this passage throughout the Daniel fast as well to keep us in tune with what we are really doing. We are not on a diet! Try to focus and pray about what you are discovering about yourself and become more aware of your relationship with God! Daniel refused the “rich” food of the king’s court, yet wound up looking and feeling healthier and more vibrant than the others because of his reliance on God and not the riches of man.

**Notes:**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**PRAYER REQUESTS:**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---