

Life Application Notes

Week beginning 19th Jan (West End) 26th Jan (Lordshill/Central).

Culture Revealed. *What Matters to Jesus in the Local Church?*

Chris Kilby. Letter 2 (SMYRNA) – Revelation 2

Opening Up.

- ! Chris mentioned that there are now only two churches of over 50 people in Izmir (Smyrna) and that one of them is part of our church family (Newfrontiers)
- ! Take a few minutes to become familiar with an outline of our history by visiting <https://newfrontierstogether.org/about-us/timeline/>
(If you are leading this study, perhaps you could bring a lap top to Life Group and talk people through the timeline)

Digging In

In Revelation we see John's vision of a glorified Christ, who then dictates to John letters to seven churches. This second letter is written to the church in Smyrna

Read Revelation 2:8-11

Some questions for discussion:

- ! Why was the name 'Smyrna' prophetic for both the city and the church there?
- ! Even though they were poor and persecuted, Jesus describes them as 'RICH'. What did he mean by that? (You might like to consider Matt 16:25-26 if you have time)
- ! Jesus nicknamed the slanderous Jewish community a 'Synagogue of Satan'. What nickname do you think he would give to Life Church?! (try to be kind to ourselves!)

Get into pairs, with pen and paper:

- ! Even though they faced many challenges – Jesus told them not to be afraid. See if in pairs you can list 10 things that fear does in our lives and mission?
- ! Share these lists and discuss with the group.

Rounding Off

Please take some time to pray for Christians who are facing persecution for their faith.

Perhaps you could pray for our friends in Himalayan Grace Church in Nepal – that like the church in Smyrna they would *'be faithful – even to the point of death.'*

Finish by praying for Life Church – that we would press on without fear and accomplish all the Lord tells us to do in 2020.