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## Resources

- Watch or listen to Sunday's sermon: [abfboone.com/sermons](http://abfboone.com/sermons)
- Find Life Group resources: [abfboone.org/groups/resources](http://abfboone.org/groups/resources)

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## Revelation 2:1-7

[1] "To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: 'The words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand, who walks among the seven golden lampstands.

[2] "'I know your works, your toil and your patient endurance, and how you cannot bear with those who are evil, but have tested those who call themselves apostles and are not, and found them to be false. [3] I know you are enduring patiently and bearing up for my name's sake, and you have not grown weary. [4] But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first. [5] Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent, and do the works you did at first. If not, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent. [6] Yet this you have: you hate the works of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. [7] He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who conquers I will grant to eat of the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.'

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## Sermon Outline:

1. The Angel of the Church of Ephesus (1)
2. The Self-Description of Christ (1)
3. The Commendation of the Church (2-3)
4. The Correction of the Church (4)
5. The Call to Repentance (5)
6. The Call to Hear the Spirit (6)
7. The Promise to the Overcomers (7)

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## Life Group Leader Notes:





- Our study of the book of Revelation has brought us to a familiar passage in Scripture. What is your experience with these seven letters? Have you studied them before? Are there any particular commands, warnings, or commendations that have stuck out to you in these seven letters?
- What did you learn about the establishment and growth of the Ephesian church? How do those details help you understand Christ's words in Revelation 2:1-7?
- What were the Ephesians doing well? How do you think they were able to thrive in these areas? What kind of things would our church need to value if we lived in a city under the imposing temple to Artemis?
- Jesus told the church that they had lost their first love. Pastor Scott made the point that our church says the right things; we want to grow in our love for God, for one another, and for the lost. These are the explicit goals of the life group ministry. But how are you doing in these areas? Are you growing in your *love* in all of these areas?
- If we are not motivated by *love*, what might be motivating our ministry? Have you ever been driven by duty? Or pride? What might be motivating you right now?
- "A church that does not love is not a church." How did that statement hit you? Is your life group a *loving* life group? What is a life group that does not love?
- Have you ever gone through a process where your love grew cold (love for God, the church, or the lost)? Describe that process. What can you learn from those experiences and how can you ensure to keep your love kindled?
- Jesus called the church to repent for their lost love. Have you taken the time to do that? Why is this the necessary first step in reigniting your love? What would happen if you tried to love without taking the time to repent?
- These words were written by Jesus, who held the church with a firm grip and who was actively present with the churches. How does this encourage you as you seek to obey the command to love?

