

Fall 2009  
SERMON BASED  
SMALL GROUP SERIES:

# Radical Road Trip: Revelation 2 and 3

Discussion Guide  
Week #7

Small Groups   
Transforming Community @ RBCPC

## Week #7 JESUS IS KNOCKING: LAODICEA

### 1 King 18:17-21. (Today's New International Version)

When he saw Elijah, he said to him, "Is that you, you troubler of Israel?" "I have not made trouble for Israel," Elijah replied. "But you and your father's family have. You have abandoned the LORD's commands and have followed the Baals. Now summon the people from all over Israel to meet me on Mount Carmel. And bring the four hundred and fifty prophets of Baal and the four hundred prophets of Asherah, who eat at Jezebel's table." So Ahab sent word throughout all Israel and assembled the prophets on Mount Carmel. Elijah went before the people and said, "How long will you waver between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow him; but if Baal is God, follow him."

But the people said nothing.

### Revelation 3:14-22 (Today's New International Version)

"To the angel of the church in Laodicea write: These are the words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the ruler of God's creation. <sup>15</sup> I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! <sup>16</sup> So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth. <sup>17</sup> You say, 'I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.' But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked. <sup>18</sup> I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see.

<sup>19</sup> Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest, and repent. <sup>20</sup> Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with them, and they with me.

<sup>21</sup> To those who are victorious, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I was victorious and sat down with my Father on his throne. <sup>22</sup> Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

### Notes For Reflection:

## **Facilitator's Guide**

This is the last week for the ***Radical Road Trip*** Sermon Based Small Group Series. We hope that in a large or small way, this study has encouraged transformation in your group!

## **So What's Next?**

Have you started the conversation with your Small Group about what you will do after the Radical Road Trip series ends? Now's the time!

- See the [www.rbcpc.org](http://www.rbcpc.org) website for ideas to do community service project together
- Start the ***7 Signs of Jesus*** Small Group series through the gospel of John
- Meet for a potluck at someone's home
- Learn how to pray together, meet for 3-4 weeks in a row and pray for each other's needs

## **7 Signs of Jesus – Begins Nov. 1<sup>st</sup>**

This series will run independently of the sermons. Many Small Groups hibernate between Nov-January through the holiday season. But, some don't. And, one theory is that they hibernate because nothing is compelling them to meet together during that busy season. Although there is no Sermon Series, there is still a spiritual hunger in our church to grow in discipleship and impact our community.

So, after receiving much feedback, we are writing a Small Group Study Series on the 7 Signs of Jesus through the gospel of John. We'll make them available, as usual, on the website and in the Welcome Center. Since each study stands alone, a Small Group can go through the entire series in order, or pick a few that stand out.

## ***The Sign – The Unseen Spiritual Reality***

1. Jesus turns water into wine. *John 2:1-11*
2. Jesus heals the Official's son. *John 4:46-54*
3. Jesus heals the man at the pool. *John 5:1-9*
4. Jesus feeds the multitudes. *John 6:1-15, 25-27*
5. Jesus crosses the sea. *John 6:16-21*
6. Jesus heals the blind man. *John 9:1-41*
7. Jesus raises Lazarus. *John 11:1-44*

***Continued blessings to you and your small group!***

## Week #7 JESUS IS KNOCKING: LAODICEA

### Start It: *connecting with each other*

- How does the change in seasons affect your mood or the tone of your life?
- Has there been a time in your life when you refused to take a risk that you later regretted?
- When you were growing up, how did your parents define success?

### Study It: *understanding God's word*

- Someone read **1 King 18:17-21 and Revelations 3:14-22**. After reading both passages, can you find similarities in the attitudes of the Israelites and Laodiceans; and between Jesus and Elijah?
- Based on the Revelation passage, what is the root of the problem for this church Jesus is addressing?
- Why do you think the church's state is so upsetting to Jesus?
- What does Jesus offer to those who are "lukewarm"?
- How does the painting titled "Light of the World" by Holman Hunt give color to the words of Jesus when he says: "*Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with them, and they with me*" (Rev. 3:20)?

### Live It: *making truth stick*

- Is there an aspect of your life that reflects the Laodicea church?
- As Christians, we do not want to be like the "frogs slowly boiled in the kettle" how then can we move out of complacency as individuals and as a church?
- Is Jesus knocking at your door and are you responding?

### Pray It: *inviting God's spirit to change you and the world*

- For ourselves: May we ever cling to Jesus and reject complacency and arrogance.
- For our church: May we be a church that opens the door to Jesus and have ears to hear what the Spirit says to us.