

Getting Started (ideas for how to transition to begin this study):

- The opening question is intended to explore how familiar this book is with your group. It may be helpful for some that have not read or studied this book before that it is very different from other New Testament books and can be difficult to follow. That's ok. It is the only book that promises a blessing to those who read it! Others with more experience in Revelation may be able to encourage those who struggle with its imagery.
- Discuss how the use of "pictures" makes for effective communication (e.g., "a picture is worth a thousand words" – is this true?). Not all pictures in this book are clear as to what is being communicated. However, they are worth considering, meditating upon, and holding in our minds as they are from the Word.
- Considering what you read about Ephesus, do you think you could have been a member of this church?

Digging Deeper (optional material to consider):

- Nicolaitans are referred to in verse 6. The Greek word means "to conquer the people." We see in Revelation 2:15 that they are aligned with followers of Balaam. Irenaeus, an early church Father, said "they lived lives of unrestricted indulgence."
- Based on what you pick up about the Nicolaitans, what adverse influence do you suppose they had on the early Ephesus church?
- Read Paul's letter to Ephesus. Can you identify additional traits of this church? Can you confirm the traits that are called out in the Revelation passage about this church (positive and negative)?
- Read and meditate on these scriptures and what they teach us about love:
 - Matthew 22:37 - 39
 - John 14:15
 - I Corinthians 8:1 – 3
 - I Corinthians 11: 1 – 3
 - I Corinthians 13
 - Colossians 3:14
 - I John 4:20, 21
- To what areas in your life is Jesus pointing to as lacking love?