

Growth Group Discussion Questions—Oct. 25-31

1. Share about a time when you saw someone famous in public. Who was it and how did you react? Did you play it cool or lose your composure?
2. Have someone in your growth group read the sermon passage out loud (Rev. 3:7-13). Then have another person pray that the group discussion would teach and encourage everyone in the growth group (Ps .119:130).
3. Has someone whom you value ever enthusiastically acknowledged you in public? Who was it and what impact did it have on you? Now think – but don't share – about a time when someone was embarrassed to claim you as a friend. Now cross over to our relationship with Jesus. How must it make our Lord feel when we openly acknowledge our commitment to Him?
4. Mark Twain once said: "I can live for two months on a good compliment." We all know exactly what he means. Write down Jesus' two-part compliment to the church of Philadelphia in Rev. 3:8.
a. _____ b. _____
5. Do you know of any church, ministry, or individual believer who deserves Rev. 3:8 praise? Brainstorm nominees for a "Spirit of Philadelphia Award."
6. In the message Dave shared a personal weakness (how nervous he used to be before speaking) and how his mentor helped him to see his weakness in a new light. What weakness do you have (emotional, physical, or spiritual) that you would like Jesus to remake into a strength? (See 2 Cor. 12:10).
7. We live in an uncertain world. Just last week we hit the 20-year-anniversary of the Loma Prieta Earthquake. But God promises an "unshakable" future for even the feeblest Christian who limps, trips, and staggers over the finish line of faith (Heb. 12:28). What are the three promises that Jesus makes in Rev. 3:12, and what does each one mean?
8. In your UPLIFT time, pray especially for a great turnout at the Fall Family Festival on Sat., Oct. 31 from 6:00 – 8:30 PM at SCBC. Pray for hundreds of people to come and be blessed by this major and servant-intensive event. Discuss whether your growth group can serve at the festival by manning a game booth. Remember, you can take shifts! If you can help, please have your facilitator contact Ani at asalisbury@santacruzible.org.

Eight Warnings from the Book of Revelation The Underdogs – The Church in Philadelphia

Background of This Underdog Church.

... these are the words of him who is holy and true, who holds the key of David. What he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open. **Revelation 3:7**

I. The Four Ways Jesus Encourages The Underdogs.

A. **His Character** _____ Encourages the Underdogs.

Holy = **_separate from** _____, wholly other, different from, pure.

True = **_genuine** _____, authentic and real.

B. **His Control** _____ Encourages The Underdogs.

... who holds the key of David. What he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open. **Revelation 3:7**

Key = **A key in scripture** **_represents authority** _____; **whoever holds the key has control.**

I will place on his shoulder they key to the house of David; what he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open. **Isaiah 22:22**

Jesus said, Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life and only a few find it. **Matthew 7:13**

Make every effort to enter through the narrow door, because many, I tell you, will try to enter and will not be able to. Once the owner of the house gets up and closes the door, you will stand outside knocking and pleading, Sir, open the door for us. But he will reply, I don't know

you or where you come from. Then you will say, we ate and drank with you, and you taught in our streets. But he will reply, I don't know you or where you come from. Away from me, all you evildoers.

Luke 13:24 – 27

To know = to recognize someone, to realize someone whom with you are familiar_____.

C. His Compliment_____ Encourages The Underdogs.

I know your deeds. See, I have placed before you an open door that one can shut. I know you have little strength, yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name. **Revelation 3:8**

Open door = an opportunity to show and tell_____ others about the love of Jesus.

1. Jesus knows they are small in size but big in faith_____.

For some say, His letters are weighty and forceful, but in person he is unimpressive and his speaking amounts to nothing.

2 Corinthians 10:10

Unimpressive = weak, weakling, ill_____

Speaking amounts to nothing = despicable, contemptible, really bad_____

I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong. **2 Corinthians 12:10**

2. Jesus knows they have kept his word in spite of trials and temptations_____.

I have not departed from the command of His lips: I have treasured the words of his mouth more than my necessary food. **Job 23:12**

3. Jesus knows they had not denied his name like others had_____.

D. His Commitment_____ Encourages The Underdogs.

1. Jesus commits himself to honor them in the eyes of the world_____.

I will make those who are of the synagogue of Satan, who claim to be Jews though they are not, but are liars – I will make them come and fall down at your feet and acknowledge that I have loved you.

Revelation 3:9

2. Jesus commits himself to keeping them from the hour of trial_____.

Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come upon the whole world to test those who live on the earth. **Revelation 3:10**

3. Jesus commits himself to provide for them a secure place in heaven_____.

Him who overcomes I will make a pillar in the temple of my God. Never again will he leave it. I will write on him the name of my God and the name of the city of my God . . . I will also write on him my new name. **Revelation 3:12**

A pillar = the idea is stability, permanence, and security_____

The name of God = depicts ownership_____, signifying that all true followers of Jesus belong to God.

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