



This week we continue our series through the seven letters to the seven churches in Revelation. This week we look at the church in Philadelphia. This is one of the two churches to not receive a rebuke for their actions. Jesus only has an encouragement and promise for this church. The church in Philadelphia was small and experiencing persecution for their faith. They were a faithful church who lived out both the Greatest Commandment and the Great Commission; they were living on mission in their area for the Gospel. Study these questions to learn more about the church in Philadelphia and reflect together on what Jesus is saying to us today.

1. We don't often make headlines for the thousands of faithful choices we make each day; only for the ones that go wrong. What does faithfulness to the Lord look like in the everyday life of a healthy Christian? Share a few examples from your own walk.
2. Read Revelation 3:7-8. These verses give us three descriptions of Jesus: holy, true, and holding the keys. Take some time to talk about the importance of each description and how they help us grow in our walk with Jesus.
3. Revelation 3:8 focuses on Jesus' ability to open and close doors. Read Isaiah 22:22, 1 Corinthians 16:9, Colossians 4:3, and Psalm 37:23-24. What do these verses teach us about looking for opportunities in the doors Jesus opens and closes?
4. Read Revelation 3:9-10. Jesus speaks of His power to protect His people. The Church in Philadelphia was facing trials. Can you share a time when Jesus strengthened you during a trial and what made His encouragement meaningful?
5. The church in Philadelphia was a faithful church in an unfaithful world. Read: Acts 2:42-47, Acts 6:3-4, Acts 8:1-4, and 1 Peter 2:9-10. Which qualities of a faithful church stood out to you the most? How can we reflect these in our church today?
6. Read Revelation 3:11-13. In a world that can feel like it's trying to drown us in pressure, temptation, and disappointment, Jesus tells the church in Philadelphia: "I am coming soon." How does this encourage you today?
7. Jesus tells the church to "Hold on!" Read Psalm 16:8, Proverbs 4:25-27, Romans 12:1-2, and Hebrews 12:1-3. Do you have a specific verse that helps anchor your faith in Jesus when discouragement sets in? Share it with the group.
8. Close in prayer asking Jesus to make us a faithful church to the end.