

Questions for House Groups – Rev. 2:8-11

1. Have you ever gone through a difficult period in your life, something that you would label as “suffering”? What is this passage saying about suffering?
2. What does Christ's description of Himself tell us about suffering?
3. How do you think the Smyrnaens felt knowing that Christ was aware of their suffering? How do you feel knowing that Christ is aware of your suffering?
4. Who is responsible for evil? Do you ever blame God for bad things that happen to you?
5. What is the “crown of life”? How is it related to “the second death”? How are these concepts an encouragement to the church of Smyrna?
6. Of the seven churches who receive letters, Smyrna is one of only two that are not rebuked for their mistakes/short-comings. What do you think their suffering did to their faith as a church? What does that tell us?
7. Why should the church at Smyrna be encouraged in the face of persecution? How does this same message apply to us today, given that we are not persecuted in this way?