

PRAYER REQUESTS

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SERVICE PROJECT

Sunny Hills Growth Group
Week of January 12, 2020

OPENING QUESTIONS

1. Who was your “first love”?
2. How likely would you be to complain to the owner if you received poor service/product?

QUICK REVIEW

This week we ... looked at Revelation Chapter 2, the first 4 of 7 churches that received feedback from Jesus.

Looking back at your notes from this week’s sermon, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

DIGGING DEEPER

Revelation 2:1-29 (NLT2)

¹ “Write this letter to the angel of the church in Ephesus. This is the message from the one who holds the seven stars in his right hand, the one who walks among the seven gold lampstands:

- What qualifications does Jesus have to evaluate the church at Ephesus?

Revelation 2:2-3, "I know all the things you do. I have seen your hard work and your patient endurance. I know you don't tolerate evil people. You have examined the claims of those who say they are apostles but are not. You have discovered they are liars.³ You have patiently suffered for me without quitting.

- What was the church *doing* right?
- What underlying attitudes supported these good actions?

Revelation 2:4-5, "But I have this complaint against you. You don't love me or each other as you did at first!⁵ Look how far you have fallen! Turn back to me and do the works you did at first. If you don't repent, I will come and remove your lampstand from its place among the churches.

- Why would this complaint be especially painful?
- What was Jesus' treatment plan for the people of Ephesus?
- If the people didn't change, what would happen?

Revelation 2:7, "Anyone with ears to hear must listen to the Spirit and understand what he is saying to the churches. To everyone who is victorious I will give fruit from the tree of life in the paradise of God."

- Everybody has ears, right?
- If the people did change, what would happen?

APPLICATION

How do you like the process of evaluation as an employee or boss?

What do you imagine would be in a Sunny Hills evaluation?

- Good:
- Complaint:
- Actions to take:
- Warning:
- Promise:

Why do people's love wane or weaken?

What steps could a couple, family, friendship, or Christian take to strengthen a love that had grown cold?

What things do new Christians do that more veteran believers might let go of?