

AWAKE THE CALL TO A RENEWED LIFE

Lesson 2: Return to Your First Love Revelation 2:1-7

Discussion Question: What hobbies or interests have you lost touch with over the years, if any?

Answer: *Return to a love for Christ that permeates everything you do.*

Definitions:

- **Angel of the Church (v.1)** The Greek word for "Angel" means "messenger" and can be used of angelic messengers, such as pastors who were responsible for delivering God's message to the churches.
- **Stars (v.1)** The seven stars represent the Angels (pastors) of the seven churches (see revelation 1:20).
- **Gold lampstands (v.1)** The seven lampstands represent the seven churches in Revelation 2-3.
- **Nicolaitans (v.6)** This Nicolaitians were a heretical group in the early church that taught a combination of idolatry and immorality.

Revelation 2:1-4

1 "To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: These are the words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand and walks among the seven golden lampstands. **2** I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance. I know that you cannot tolerate wicked people, that you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them false. **3** You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name, and have not grown weary. **4** Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken the love you had at first.

Discussion Questions

- How would you compare and contrast doing things for Jesus and spending time with Jesus?
- How can we evaluate whether we've lost our first love for Christ?

Revelation 2:5-7

5 Consider how far you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first. If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place. **6** But you have this in your favor: You hate the practices of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. **7** Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.

Discussion Questions

- What does it look like for a follower of Christ to repent?
- How do we train ourselves to listen to God's Spirit throughout the day?

Live It Out

- **Remember.** Write down the top three things that describe your Christian walk at its most healthiest time.
- **Repent.** Spend time identifying any habits or patterns in your life that are detrimental to your love for Jesus. Repent right now before God. Turn from those sins today.
- **Return.** Write down a practical plan for drawing closer to God. This may be a renewed commitment to daily bible reading, prayer, sharing your faith, and so on.