

One Heart **ONE VOICE**



PREPARING TO BE EFFECTIVE
DISCIPLE-MAKERS
FOR THE KINGDOM



One Heart | One Voice

(Preparing to be Effective Disciple-Makers for the Kingdom)



General Conference
Ministerial Association

Organized and edited by Melody Mason, with assistance from Don MacLafferty and Shiloh Howard, for the General Conference Prayer Ministries.

Materials in this revival resource are taken primarily from *The Way Back to the Altar* curriculum but also include material from *Jesus' Last Love Letter*, *The Last Elijah* as well as a few excerpts from *Daring to Ask for More* and *Daring to Live by Every Word*.

Lesson 2 | EXAMINE | *Leader's Guide*

Children, youth, and adults all desperately need to know that Someone loves them and will never leave them in this turbulent time! Jesus spoke often of His second coming. He wants everyone to be ready to meet Him when He comes, so that He and His people can be together forever! However, He warned us that prior to His coming, “most people’s love will grow cold” (See Matthew 24:12). We see that this prophecy is being fulfilled now! This makes Jesus’ last love letter of Revelation 3:14-22 as well as the warning given in Joel 2, very significant. It’s time to examine our hearts, recognize our need, and seek Jesus while we still can.

“Blow a trumpet in Zion and sound an alarm on My holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the Lord is coming; surely it is near...’Yet even now,’ declares the Lord, ‘Return to Me with all your heart, and with fasting, weeping and mourning; and rend your heart and not your garments.’ Now return to the Lord your God, for He is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger, abounding in loving kindness and relenting of evil...Gather the people, sanctify the congregation, assemble the elders, gather the children and the nursing infants...” (Joel 2:1,12,13,16).

These next two lessons have been condensed and taken from the revival series: *Jesus’ Last Love Letter* by Don MacLafferty. For more detailed leadership tips and the full study guide, please click the QR code or visit: <https://tinyurl.com/JesusLoveLetter>



Suggested outline for 1 hour 30-minute meeting

- Sing 2-3 songs of worship and praise. **(5-8 mins)**
- Give everyone a warm welcome and have opening prayer. **(5 mins)**
- Make sure people are arranged in small groups of 6. Even numbers are best if possible!
- Make sure each group has their leader. Keep the youth involved. **(2-3 mins)**
- Make sure everyone (or at least 1 person in each group) has a Bible.
- To begin, ask everyone to share with a partner how they did on the first challenge—What practical steps they took to prepare their hearts, their families heart, etc **(4 mins)**
- Lead a time of united prayer with praise, confession, worship, then pray for the Holy Spirit. **(15 mins)** (See <https://tinyurl.com/Praying4Rain> for more tips on leading United Prayer.)
- Follow “Examine – Jesus’ Last Love Letter” study outline with the appeal. **(40-45 mins)**
- At the end, meet in small groups to discuss practical ways to take the message home, then have them pray together one more time for OneVoice, before leaving. **(10 mins)**
- Take time to gather and pray with the small group leaders too, if possible.

Lesson 2 | EXAMINE | *The Study*

In Psalm 26:2, David cries out, “Examine me, O LORD, and prove me; Try my mind and my heart.” In this lesson we are going to examine the true condition of our heart as we also examine Jesus’ great love for us.

Jesus warned that prior to His coming, “most people’s love will grow cold.” (See Matthew 24:12.) We see that this prophecy is being fulfilled now! Families are splintering under strain and stress, communities are polarizing, and in our preoccupation to survive these times, we have often become too rushed for the One who loves us the most—God. Yet nearly two thousand years ago, Jesus prescribed a remedy for “love grown cold” in His message to Laodicea, and it has special relevance right now!

Jesus’ message in Revelation 3:14-22 is His last love letter to His people of all ages before He returns. In this letter, Jesus openly tells young and old who He is, how much He loves them, and how to have a close relationship with Him. He appeals to them to get real about their personal faith and to run to Him for love, life, and freedom while there is still time left.

Before we get into this amazing love letter, let’s do a connect activity.

Connect Activity: Preparation for the Word

[Leader Tip: *The following activity should be done in the small groups. If you are doing this on your own, be creative and ask yourself, how well your friends or family know you.*]

- Invite every group to choose two people that know each other. Invite the two people to stand back-to-back.
- Tell each group to think of four questions to ask the team of two standing to see how well they know each other. Direct the questions to person “A” and ask them to try and answer for person “B.” Then ask person “B” if person “A” guessed the correct answer. **(Take 2-3 minutes)**.
- After the game is finished, invite the group to discuss this question: What can we learn from this game to apply to each of us knowing Jesus? **(2 minutes)**

How well do you know Jesus? Have you asked yourself that question recently?

Today, in Revelation 3, we will explore Jesus' last love letter to know **Who** Jesus really is. Before we begin this study, let's pray for the Holy Spirit to reveal who Jesus really is.

[Leader Tip: Take time to pray, then invite each small group to explore John 5:39. Ask them to search to discover what Jesus says is the main point of the Bible. (3 minutes) Take a few answers.]

As we see in John 5:39, the whole Bible points to Jesus Christ. He is the main focus. You can study the Bible to research many topics, but if you forget that Jesus is the main point, you have missed the whole reason for which it was written.

The book of Revelation, the last book of the Bible, is studied for many reasons: to understand prophecy, to know the future, to understand the meaning of the symbols. But perhaps in studying all these things, we've missed the main point of Revelation.

Read Revelation 1:1. What is the purpose of the book of Revelation according to the first verse?

[Leader Tip: Encourage small groups to read Revelation 1:1 and take a few answers.]

This book was written so that we could know the real Jesus Christ! It's literally the *revelation of Jesus Christ*. In Revelation 2 and 3, Jesus gives a message to the seven churches. These churches were actual churches in history. These churches also symbolize God's people in different eras over the last two thousand years since Jesus walked on earth. Today we begin Jesus' last love letter in Revelation 3:14-22. This message is especially for those of us living in these last days before Jesus returns!

Part I - Who is Jesus to You?

Read and discuss Revelation 3:14. How does Jesus introduce Himself?

Of Jesus' many names, notice that He chooses three distinct names to reveal Himself to His people living in these difficult days. "The Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning" (Rev. 3:14).

Let's explore what these names mean through the Word of God.

- (1) **The Amen:** "For the Son of God, Christ Jesus, who was preached among you by us—by me and Silvanus and Timothy—was not yes and no, but is yes in Him. *For as many as are the promises of God, in Him they are yes*; therefore also through Him is our Amen to the glory of God through us" (2 Cor.1:19,20).

Jesus is the Amen, the Yes to all the promises in the Bible! Jesus is telling His last day people that we can live on His promises for He is the guarantee of all Bible promises.

[Leader Tip: Invite the group to take 4 minutes to share some of the Bible promises that are most meaningful to them. Ask for volunteers to share their favorite Bible promises with the whole group. **Emphasize that Jesus is the AMEN and the YES to these promises!]**

- (2) **The Faithful and True Witness:** “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever” (Heb.13:8). Jesus said, “I am with you always, even to the end of the age” (Matt. 28:20). “John to the seven churches...and from Jesus Christ, the Faithful Witness” (Rev. 1:4,5). “And I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and He who sat on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and wages war” (Rev. 19:11).

Why does Jesus call Himself the Faithful and True Witness? It’s because Jesus is Faithful to you and me! He will be with you now and for eternity. He will never leave you. He will never turn His back on you. He is the Witness of His Father’s unconditional love. His witness to us is true!

[Leader Tip: Invite participants to share quick stories in their small groups of how Jesus has been faithful to them. Ask for 1 or 2 people to share with everyone. **Give 4-5 minutes** for this sharing time.]

- (3) **The Beginning:** “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men. The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it” (John 1:1-5). “Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come” (2 Cor. 5:17).

Jesus calls Himself “The Beginning” because He wants you to know that He is the Creator of all things. He wants you to know today that just as He had the power to create our world with just a word, He also has the power to re-create you with a word. You are not chained to your past.

Do you need a fresh picture of who Jesus is in your life? If you do, I invite you to go to your knees, if possible, right where you are. Take a quiet moment to ask the Holy Spirit to help you discover Jesus Christ all over again today and throughout this *One Heart, One Voice* revival series. After you pray, we will continue with Part II of this inspiring study.

[Leader Tip: Invite people to pray individually.]

Part II - What is Between Us?

Often, even in our best relationships, things will come along that create distance or misunderstanding. Think about a close relationship in your life and list some things that might create separation or distance between you and someone you love.

[Leader Tip: Invite small groups to discuss this question briefly, and then share several examples.]

Read the following Bible passages and answer the questions, “How well does Jesus know us? What kind of things might separate us from Him? If we have a nice mask on, can we fool God?”

- **Psalms 139:1-4**
- **Isaiah 59:1-2**
- **Revelation 3:15**

We can never fool God. Psalm 139 tell us, “He has searched me. He knows when I sit down and when I get up. He understands my thoughts. He studies the direction I am taking. He knows when I rest. He knows what I will speak before I speak it. When we read Isaiah 59, we discover there are things that separate us from God. In Revelation 3:15 Jesus says, “I know your deeds. I know your works.”

Have you ever taken a bite out of a bad piece of fruit? When someone says they tasted something and had to spit it out of their mouths, we know it must have tasted terrible. Why does Jesus say that He will spit us out of His mouth? The following passage gives the answer.

- **Revelation 3:16-17**

Jesus sees us differently than we see ourselves. We say, I am rich and I have need of nothing. Jesus says, “You do not know your true condition...you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked.”

This is a dangerous place to be as Jesus’ coming draws near. We think we are okay with Christ, but we are not. We think we are staying close to Him, and do not know that we are far away. We think we know so much about Him and that our knowledge equates to a relationship with Him, but it does not. We know about Him, but too often do not know Him *personally*.

You might be thinking, “This is pretty discouraging! So where is the hope in this message? How do we find courage in this passage?”

[Leader Tip: Invite the small groups to discuss and then ask for feedback. Take 2-3 Minutes.]

The awesome point of Revelation 3:15-16 is that Jesus KNOWS us and He CARES about our condition. If He did not care about us, He would not bother confronting us with our personal spiritual danger.

This same Jesus says, “Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light” (Matthew 11:28-30).

The Appeal

How does this message speak to your heart today? What difference will it make in your life if you truly embrace it?

***[Leader Tip:** Share a personal testimony about how God awakened you to your true condition and the difference this message has made in your own life. If you are just now recognizing your need, be open about that too! Jesus isn’t asking us to be at the destination before we share, but to bring others with us to the foot of the cross. Remember, we all come to Jesus at the same level, in our great need.]*

Jesus invites us tonight to come to Him as we are: lukewarm in our experience with Jesus, poor in our faith, blind to our own need, and naked in our utter lack of righteousness.

If you hear God calling you tonight to come to Him, then I invite you to do so by coming forward to kneel in humility before Him.

***[Leader Tip:** Pray together as a group, and then give the practical take home heart-challenge, as you invite participants to return for your next study.]*

Practical Take Home Heart-Challenge

- Read Revelation 3:14 again. Choose one of the names of Jesus in this verse that means the most to you. Thank your Heavenly Father for how Jesus has been faithful with that name to you.
- Pray Psalm 139:23,24. Come to Jesus just as you are. Ask God to reveal to you what needs to change in your life to take you from being lukewarm to being fiery hot.