



Harbor Trinity Groups

Discussion Questions

Sermon Title: To the Church: Smyrna

Scripture: Revelation 2:8-11

Date: April 26th, 2026

Speaker Name: Justin Chandler

1. Prior to this weekend, had you heard of Polycarp? Were you aware that he was a disciple of John? What did you think as you heard the testimony of the end of his life?
2. The book of Revelation tells us, “Bless is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear, and who keep what is written” (Revelation 1:1-3) because “these words are trustworthy and true” (Revelation 22:6-7). Let’s take a moment to read these verses aloud together.
3. Jesus says that He is, “the first and the last, who died and came to life” (Revelation 2:8). What is the distinction between these two phrases? How are they more powerful when read together?
4. Jesus will say to each of the churches, “I know” (Revelation 2:2, 3, 9, 13, 19; 3:1, 8, 15). Do you believe that Jesus “knows” you? Does He know what you are going through currently?
5. How is it possible to be in poverty, but rich (Revelation 2:9)? Is this something that you would pursue? Why or why not?
6. The early church experienced an abundance of poverty. While this is true for the majority of global and historic Christianity, this is not true for the majority of Christians in America. What impact does this have upon our faith?
7. Jesus told the church in Smyrna, “Do not fear what you are about to suffer” (Revelation 2:10). How would you respond if Jesus said this to you?
8. If we are honest, we would prefer Jesus to say, “Do not fear, I have stopped the suffering.” How are we able to understand the wisdom, providence, and purpose of God in what He said to the church in Smyrna, rather than what we *want* Him to say to us?
9. Smyrna was a persecuted church. How do you think Harbor Trinity Church would stand up today if the members were persecuted for attending? What new things would you learn about Harbor Trinity in that situation?
10. How do you define faithfulness? How is it expressed in your life, both to God, and others?
11. Faithfulness for God is defined as, “faithful unto death” (Revelation 2:10)? Have you considered what it means to be a Christian in this regard?
12. “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches” (Revelation 2:11) is a repeated phrase to the seven churches. What do you believe that the Spirit is saying to you? Do you believe God is also saying something to us? Harbor Trinity Church?