

For week of September 4 to September 10

Candles #1: Ephesus

Getting Started

Name something that you used to love to do that you don't very often do any more. Why did you stop? Would you do it again if you could?

Have you ever stopped something you were doing that was important because you just got tired of doing it? What was the activity and why did you stop? What, if anything, could make you start again?

Read the Text Together

Revelation 2:1-7

Discussion

All the messages to the churches come from Jesus. How does He describe Himself to the church in Ephesus? What do you think these descriptions tell us about Jesus?

Based solely on **v. 2 & 3**, describe the church in Ephesus. If this was the description of a modern church, what would it look like today? What programs would they run? What would the worship service look/feel like? What about outreach? Community Service? Where do you think a modern church like Ephesus would invest the most of its time and resource?

What does the church in Ephesus get wrong? Explain what that means.

Do the words in **v. 5 & 6** seem appropriate to the offense? Why or why not?

In general, it seems the church in Ephesus is still acting right and doing good things. What is the difference between acting in love versus acting solely from a sense of responsibility or obligation or routine? What does that look like in a church?

What is the promised reward for the Ephesian Church for listening to what the Spirit says? What does it mean?

Wrap Up

In what way is the description of Jesus in **v. 1** the solution to the problem the Ephesians face? In what way is the reward in **v. 7** exactly what the Ephesians need?

In what ways does the church in Ephesus resemble and differ from: 1) Present-day Christianity; 2) the Seventh-day Adventist Church; 3) the Forest Lake Church; 4) you personally?

What must be done to re-ignite a church's first love? Is it the same for an individual? If you resonate with the situation of the church in Ephesus, what needs to change in your life? What action do you need to take as a result of this study?