

For October 16 to October 22

## **Candles #5: Philadelphia**

**Note: We are going out of order intentionally. We will pick up Sardis next week.**

### **Getting Started**

Tell of a time when you had very little strength, yet you did the right thing, even against resistance.

### **Read the Text Together**

**Revelation 3:7-13**

### **Discussion**

How does Jesus describe Himself to the church of Philadelphia? What sort of Jesus do these words describe? What does it mean for Jesus to be holy? True? To have the key of David? Why David? What about the opening and shutting? How do you feel about the Jesus of Philadelphia?

What kind of situation do you think the believers of Philadelphia are experiencing based on **v. 8**? Do you think they are persecuted? Oppressed? Few in number? What do you think causes them to feel like doors are shut and they are powerless?

What, in **v. 9**, does Jesus say will happen? Have you ever longed for something like this to happen? Is this a healthy desire? What would be an unhealthy way to long for this? How is this a source of hope to the believers in Philadelphia?

What does **v. 10** say the believers in Philadelphia have done well? What is their reward for this faithfulness? What do you think it means?

What do you think the words of Jesus at the beginning of **v. 11** meant to the believers in Philadelphia? How would we interpret those words? Is that the right way to read this passage? What does the last part of this verse mean?

Does being a "pillar in the temple of my God" sound good to you? Why or why not? What do you think this means? What else is promised?

### **Wrap Up**

Are there ways in which you feel like doors in your life are shut and you are too weak to do anything about it? Does this message to the church in Philadelphia bring you hope? Why or why not?

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

Are you hanging on to your crown? What does this mean for you?