

## Letters to the Church - Week 3

Scripture Passage: Revelation 2:8-11

**Read:** Revelation 2:8-11

1. This is the shortest letter of the seven and doesn't include any sort of correction. What do you think it would be like to be part of a church that is both suffering for their faith and struggling financially? (Imagine their gatherings, and worship services, and conversations.)
2. Considering what they are dealing with, what would be encouraging to hear from Jesus in this letter?
3. Pastor Andrew talked about what Christians in different countries around the world have to deal with because of their faith. Have you ever talked with or read about someone that has had to deal with persecution? If so, what do you remember about their experience?
4. Have you personally ever experienced anything negative because of your Christian faith?

**Read:** Matthew 16:24-26

5. After reading this passage now imagine that being a Christian could result in not getting a good job, being ostracized by your family and friends, or even violence toward you. How does it that cause you to read that passage differently?
6. Why do you think so many Christians in the United States are afraid to share about their faith with people they know?

### **Practice:**

*A lot of people wear a cross or even have one tattooed on them. When you see someone with one, you can ask questions like, "How long have you been wearing that?" or "What does that mean to you?" From there, you can easily share what the cross means to you.*