

THEME: Hear what the Spirit says to the churches!

MEMORY VERSE: Revelation 1:3

Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear, and who keep what is written in it, for the time is near.

SONGS: Click <u>here</u> for Sunday's worship set. Be sure to subscribe to our channel!

TEACHING PASSAGE: Revelation 2:12-17

See the **next page** for any additional resources, including any activities that can be done with young children.

Discussion Questions:

- 1. How does Jesus describe himself to the church at Pergamum and how is it a warning about their failures? (Hebrews 4:12-13)
- 2. Pergamum was a city that had the first temple dedicated to a living emperor and was the center of culture and knowledge how does this information give a better understanding of what the church was facing? (verse 13)
- 3. What do you think it may have been like to live in a city like this, and what things were happening to faithful Christians there? (verse 13)
- 4. Jesus commends the Christians in Pergamum for holding fast to His name, but what were the things He had against them? (verse 14-15), (Acts 15:29, 1 Corinthians 8:10 and 2 Peter 2:15)
- 5. False teaching and immoral conduct still continues in churches today. We need to heed Jesus' words to Pergamum and 'war against' it with the sword of Jesus' mouth. What do you think this means, and what is the reward for those that conquer? (verse16-17)

Additional Resources

Teaching Passage: Revelation 2:12-17

¹² "And to the angel of the church in Pergamum write: 'The words of him who has the sharp two-edged sword.

13 " 'I know where you dwell, where Satan's throne is. Yet you hold fast my name, and you did not deny my faith even in the days of Antipas my faithful witness, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells. ¹⁴ But I have a few things against you: you have some there who hold the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the sons of Israel, so that they might eat food sacrificed to idols and practice sexual immorality. ¹⁵ So also you have some who hold the teaching of the Nicolaitans. ¹⁶ Therefore repent. If not, I will come to you soon and war against them with the sword of my mouth. ¹⁷ He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who conquers I will give some of the hidden manna, and I will give him a white stone, with a new name written on the stone that no one knows except the one who receives it.'

For Children:

Say: It might feel a little scary to read this passage with the multiple mentions of Satan. But let's remember Jesus has authority over Satan. Jesus is warning the church to stay true to His commandments. Review the 10 commandments and discuss what the church of Pergamon is breaking according to this letter? (Exodus 20)

Ask: What is promised to the one who conquers in verse 17?

Say: Jesus makes a connection between himself and manna. Read John 6:48–51, 58 "I am the bread of life. Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, yet they died. But here is the bread that comes down from heaven, which anyone may eat and not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats this bread will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world. . . . This is the bread that came down from heaven. Your ancestors ate manna and died, but whoever feeds on this bread will live forever"

Say: Jesus is using symbolism; he is not saying we should take a bite of him. He is saying the Israelites were sustained (given strength) by manna for 40 years in the wilderness. Jesus sustains the believer for eternity.

Additional Resource: If you are curious what the meaning of the white stone is here is an article that addresses the white stone. https://www.gotquestions.org/white-stone-new-name.html

Activity: Go for a walk and search for a white stone for each of you. When you get home wash your stones and write your name on a stone and place the stones in a special place to remind you of Jesus promise to give you entrance into Heaven.

