

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 3:14-22

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

Discussion Questions:

- 1. What was the sin that Jesus was condemning in the church of Laodicea?
- 2. What do you think Jesus means when he said to the church, "I wish that you were one or the other! (NLT)"? Would Jesus have preferred them the be a "cold" church over a "hot" church?
- 3. Why is gold purchased from Jesus more valuable than the riches the Laodiceans had?
- 4. How is loving that Jesus was correcting this church?
- 5. What is the significance of Jesus being welcomed in to "share a meal together as friends"?

Additional Resources

Teaching Passage: Revelation 3:14-22

¹⁴ "And to the angel of the church in Laodicea write: 'The words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of God's creation.

¹⁵ "I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were either cold or hot! ¹⁶ So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth. ¹⁷ For you say, I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing, not realizing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked. ¹⁸ I counsel you to buy from me gold refined by fire, so that you may be rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself and the shame of your nakedness may not be seen, and salve to anoint your eyes, so that you may see. ¹⁹ Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline, so be zealous and repent. ²⁰ Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me. ²¹ The one who conquers, I will grant him to sit with me on my throne, as I also conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne. ²² He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.'"

For young children:

Read verse 14 and make a list of the descriptions of Jesus. Use a dictionary to look up words for clearer understanding.

Ask: What does this verse tell us about Jesus and his character?

Ask: How is the church described in verse 15 and 16?

Activity: play the game Hot and Cold. Here is how...

Step 1: Choose one player to be the Hunter and have them leave the room or move away from the group.

Step 2: Hide a cross or a small Bible.

Step 3: Bring the Hunter back, and have them look for the object

Step 4: Say "colder" when the Hunter is far from the object

Indicate to the Hunter that they are moving away from the hidden object by saying "colder." If they keep moving in the wrong direction, words that indicate degrees of cold, such as "freezing" or "icy."

Step 5: Say "hotter" when the Hunter is close to the object

Tell the Hunter that they are getting closer to the hidden object by saying "hotter." As they move closer, say "burning" or "scorching."

Step 6: End the game when the Hunter finds the object

Ask: How would you describe a church that is cold toward Jesus, the Gospel? How would you describe a church that is hot toward Jesus, the Gospel? If you have trouble answering these questions, think about the game you just played.

Ask In verse 19, who does Jesus say he disciplines? Why does he discipline?

Talk about the purpose of discipline in your home. Think about the reason for discipline, is it like Jesus reason, to change hearts or is it just to change behavior? What is repentance?

Say: Verse 20 describes Jesus standing outside the door and knocking. Close your eyes and picture that in your mind.

Ask: Keeping that image in your mind, will you open the door? How will Jesus respond when the door is opened? Notice he says, "If anyone hears my voice", how do we hear his voice?

Ask: What is promised to the one who conquers?

Parents, this is a great opportunity to walk your child through the steps of salvation. 1. Recognize God rules the world perfectly and with love. Recognize all have fallen short of following the rules. We have all sinned. Recognize Jesus is perfect; he has never sinned. Believe he died for our sins and is risen and ascended into heaven to prepare a place for us. 2. We must repent of our sins and turn to Jesus for salvation. We must follow him.

