

STUDY QUESTIONS—Leader's Guide

Scripture Reading: Revelation 3:14-22
 Romans 12: 1-2

Leaders: *This study is a challenge for you this week. Take time to hang out with God while you prepare for the week. While doing so, consider your own life. Have you allowed God to transform you from the inside out, or have you allowed Him access to only parts of your life? Allow your time with God this week to be used when you come together with your Acts 2 Community.*

****An excerpt from a commentary will be available at the What Is Genesis table on Sunday. We encourage you to pick up a copy for further insight into the passage, which will assist you in leading your group. (If you will not be able to get one on Sunday, contact Caitlin@tlc.org).*

Getting Started

How do you like drinking your water? On ice? Cold? Warm? Room temperature?

List one hobby/interest that you are passionate about, one that you dislike, and one that you are indifferent to. How does your level of interest impact your commitment to it?

Digging Deeper

Read Revelation 3:14-22. In these verses, Jesus is talking to the church of Laodicea about their relationship with Christ. As you read, pay attention to Christ's reaction of a lukewarm Christian.

What caused Christ to call this church lukewarm?

They were self-reliant, placing confidence in their wealth and abilities (v. 17-18).

Consider the following quote:

"The statement, 'I could wish you were cold or hot (v. 15), raises the startling prospect that Jesus, though wishing for all believers to be hot, would actually find coldness less offensive than lukewarmness. Perhaps we should not find this too surprising. Those who zealously oppose Christ (cold), and those who zealously serve Him (hot), have one thing in common: they both take Him seriously. The one who neither opposes nor serves offers Christ the ultimate insult—affirming His existence, but not taking Him seriously" (Steve Gregg from *Revelation Four Views: A Parallel Commentary*).

As a leader, how do you take Christ seriously? Ask your members the same question. How are they taking Christ seriously?

Application

Read Romans 12:1-2 in your Bible, then consider how *The Message Bible* words it:

"So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him. Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out." Romans 12:1-2, *The Message Bible*

God wants to transform your life, rather than just being a part of it. How do we get there as a church?

It begins by realizing your life is nothing without him.

This may create tension where is a pause in dialogue. Don't be afraid of the silence that may come out of the questions being asked.

Where are you? Are you a hot, cold, or lukewarm Christian? When are you going to do something about it?

Leaders: This material is beckoning for an "altar call". Members will be challenged to make a decision to allow their whole life to be transformed by Christ. Your time spent with God is extremely important this week. Consider how you will facilitate this conversation.