



Discussion Guide for “Smyrna: The Weird Church”

Under Pressure Week 1

Christians have always had a reputation for being a little weird. But how exactly are we supposed to be different from the culture around us? And what does that cost us?

Scriptures for Further Reading

Revelation 1:12-18

Revelation 2:8-11

Passage for Sacred Reading:

Sacred Reading is a way of reading Scripture with an eye toward transformation, not just information. You can find a [step-by-step guide here](#). The passage for this week’s sacred reading is Revelation 1:12-18.

Questions for Discussion

1. Who are the weirdest Christians you’ve encountered? What about their faith made them weird?
2. Review the tension being faced by the churches of Revelation. How is it similar to tensions we face today?
3. What about the faith of the Smyrnan Christians made them stick out? How did it lead to suffering?
4. What is Jesus’ promise to them (v11)? How is it tied to how Jesus identifies himself (v8)? Do you think this was comforting to the Smyrnan Christians?
5. How should our commitment to Jesus make us weird in today’s culture? How should our faithfulness disrupt the culture around us?
6. What disruptive practices can you implement this week?