



Discussion Guide for “Pergamum: The Compromised Church”

Under Pressure Week 2

How often do we examine the roots of our values? Why do we really care about the things we care about? How did we decide what our vision for the Good Life is? Christians in Pergamum had the same problem we do – they assumed the values of their culture were compatible with Jesus’ vision for their lives. Jesus warns them – and us – that’s not the case. How can we know what Jesus wants for us?

Scriptures for Further Reading

[Revelation 1:12-18](#)

[Revelation 2:12-17](#)

[Isaiah 55:1-11](#)

[John 1:1-5](#)

[Hebrews 4:9-13](#)

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 Isaiah 55:1-11.

Questions for Discussion

1. How often do you think about what your values are? What about where they came from? Who decided on your values?
2. Think about ancient Pergamum. What kinds of things did the city value? How were those values different from what Jesus values?
3. Read Isaiah 55, John 1 and Hebrews 9 above. What is the “Word of God” in these texts? (Hint: it’s *not* ‘the Bible’).
4. How is the Word of God a sword? In other words, what does that metaphor mean? Why is this the aspect of Jesus the Christians in Pergamum need?
5. How does Jesus challenge our cultural values today? How might he be a sword in our lives?