

TALK IT OVER

Key Scriptures

“To the angel of the church in Pergamum write: These are the words of him who has the sharp, double-edged sword. I know where you live—where Satan has his throne. Yet you remain true to my name. You did not renounce your faith in me, not even in the days of Antipas, my faithful witness, who was put to death in your city—where Satan lives. Nevertheless, I have a few things against you: There are some among you who hold to the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to entice the Israelites to sin so that they ate food sacrificed to idols and committed sexual immorality. Likewise, you also have those who hold to the teaching of the Nicolaitans. Repent therefore! Otherwise, I will soon come to you and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth. Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who is victorious, I will give some of the hidden manna. I will also give that person a white stone with a new name written on it, known only to the one who receives it.” Revelation 2:12-17

Key Points

The Spirit of God and his word will fight for my mind to see the truth

I can choose to put my faith in Jesus and live accordingly

Background

The people in this church at Pergamum were willing to die for the faith, but they were not willing to live for the faith. They were on a teeter-totter of loyalty, holding on to the faith through persecution on one side, while allowing those who were treating others with deception, compromise, and manipulation to continue on the other.

Revelation 2:12-17

Start talking. Find a conversation starter.

- What does loyalty mean to you? What does it look like practically?

Start thinking. Ask a question to get thinking.

- What do you observe about the church at Pergamum? What sort of context were they in?
- Have you ever faced similar pressures that the Church of Pergamum faced? Perhaps, you have been forced to compromise your morals or be "Politically Correct" on a subject you know is wrong. How do you balance being "Politically Correct" and yet be a faithful and good witness for Christ?
- Why would someone be willing to die for the faith but be not willing to live for the faith? What would cause someone to compromise his or her faith?

Choose a question to create openness.

- Jesus knows our situation, our struggles, and our opportunities. He wants us to take hold of His grace and love and succeed in our faith and life. How can this help inspire you to persevere when times are tough?

Pray Boldly

Jesus, today I commit to not only die for my faith but to live for it. Your example is all I need to know that you will bring me through every situation I face in life.

Start doing. Commit to a step and live it out this week.

- Start the *Revelation 5 Bible Plan With Friends*: <https://tinyurl.com/2p8e9cb7>
- Consider how you could love others by serving at Westwood or in our community.