

TALK IT OVER

Key Scriptures

“To the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: These are the words of him who is holy and true, who holds the key of David. What he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open. I know your deeds. See, I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut. I know that you have little strength, yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name. I will make those who are of the synagogue of Satan, who claim to be Jews though they are not, but are liars—I will make them come and fall down at your feet and acknowledge that I have loved you. Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come on the whole world to test the inhabitants of the earth. I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take your crown. The one who is victorious I will make a pillar in the temple of my God. Never again will they leave it. I will write on them the name of my God and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which is coming down out of heaven from my God; and I will also write on them my new name. Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches.” Revelation 3:7–13

Key Points

Jesus holds open the door to salvation and the opportunities salvation brings.

How can I make God's word a priority in my life?

Can I lift up the name of Jesus in every area of my life?

Background

- Philadelphia= “Brotherly Love”
- Philadelphia began as a missionary city to export Greek culture to the surrounding areas including language. This opened the door for the greater missionary opportunity of sharing the love of Christ.
- Because of earthquakes and volcanic activity most inhabitants lived outside of the city.

Start talking. Find a conversation starter.

- Has there ever been a time in your life when you have felt at your weakest (emotionally, spiritually, physically, socially)? Describe it? How did God meet with you in that time?

Start thinking. Ask a question to get thinking.

- When looking at the background to this passage how does it help you understand what Jesus was saying to this church?
- From the passage, how is this church described? What does Jesus promise them?
- What would it mean for you to endure patiently? (The sense of the word in the original language: the power to withstand stress or hardship; especially the inward fortitude necessary)

Choose a question to create openness.

- What hope or promise can you remember this week from the church at Philadelphia?

Pray Boldly

Jesus, you recognize the struggles we face in life because you shared in them with us. Help me to remain faithful to you and “endure faithfully.” I can only be victorious through your Spirit at work in me, help me to cooperate with you.

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

- Start the [Letters to the Seven Churches: Study for Lent | Devotional Reading Plan | YouVersion Bible](#)
- Consider how you could love others by serving at Westwood or in our community.