



## Smyrna: The Suffering Church

**Warm Up Question:** What fictional world or place would you like to visit?

**Read Revelations 2:8-11**

*“To the angel of the church in Smyrna write:*

*These are the words of him who is the First and the Last, who died and came to life again. 9 I know your afflictions and your poverty—yet you are rich! I know about the slander of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan. 10 Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you, the devil will put some of you in prison to test you, and you will suffer persecution for ten days. Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you life as your victor’s crown. 11 Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. The one who is victorious will not be hurt at all by the second death.*

- 1. The church of Smyrna was being persecuted for their faith in Christ . Why would Jesus’ introduction as “the one who died and came to life again” be important?*
- 2. Has your faith in Christ ever been attacked or slandered? If so, how did you respond? If not, share some reasons why you think your faith in Christ has never been challenged by another?*
- 3. Jesus certainly had the power to prevent the suffering that the believers in Smyrna were facing. Or even rescue them from it? Why would He allow them to endure it?*
- 4. What is your reaction to the phrase, “Be faithful to the point of death” (v. 10)? How does this challenge you in your own walk with Christ?*



CAN YOU HEAR?  
A STUDY IN THE BOOK OF REVELATION

5. *How might we as a group help each other find joy in Christ in the midst of sufferings? How might we help each other persevere in faith in the midst of suffering? What suffering I are you facing right now?*
6. *How has God used suffering to strengthen your faith in the past or to deepen your joy? How might remembering God's past faithfulness help you trust Him in the present?*

Prayer: Spend a few moments praying for our brothers and sisters across the globe who experience persecution. Ask that Christ encourage them and strengthen them in the midst of their suffering.