



**“Accommodations”
— Dear Church—
Small Group Plan**

*Do you promise to tell the truth
the whole truth
and nothing but the truth?*

Have you ever wondered why the question is not simply put, “*Do you promise to tell the truth - period?*” Perhaps it’s because we are in the habit of saying this is the truth, but we haven’t told it all. We have only told the part that suits us. Like the little boy who told his mother that the man next door hollered at him and told him to get out of his yard. But he didn’t explain that the man was hollering because the boy had thrown a rock through his window. He didn’t tell the whole truth.

I think of Proverbs 18:17, “*The first to present his case seems right till another comes forward and questions him.*”

At the church in Pergamum, truth had been maintained in some areas and compromised in others. They had not followed the whole truth and nothing but the truth. Truth and compromise were rapidly reaching a showdown.

OPEN IT / INTRODUCE IT ...

- How would you describe a life of spiritual compromise?
- Why is the movement towards spiritual accommodation often slow and barely visible?

LOOK AT IT / STUDY IT ...

TRUTH

Revelation 2:12-13

¹² “To the angel of the church in Pergamum write: These are the words of him who has the sharp, double-edged sword. ¹³ 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, even in the days of Antipas, my faithful witness, who was put to death in your city — where Satan lives.

- Why does Jesus begin with affirmation – “*I know where you live ... you remain true ... you did not renounce*”?

- In hostile surroundings is it easy for you openly identify yourself as a follower of Jesus? Explain.
- Which do you think is more powerful to bring change, open persecution or subtle temptation? Explain.

COMPROMISE

Revelation 2:14-16

¹⁴ Nevertheless, I have a few things against you: You have people there who hold to the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to entice the Israelites to sin by eating food sacrificed to idols and by committing sexual immorality. ¹⁵ Likewise you also have those who hold to the teaching of the Nicolaitans. ¹⁶ Repent therefore! Otherwise, I will soon come to you and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth.

- How has our culture infiltrated and dulled our sense of holiness?
- What has been the impact upon relationships (marriages, friendships, families)?
- How is it possible for someone to “remain true” to Jesus’ name (v. 13) and need to “repent therefore!” (v. 16)?
- What is the “sword of my mouth” and how is it used (cf. Eph. 6:17)?

USE IT / APPLY IT ...

Revelation 2:17

¹⁷ He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, I will give some of the hidden manna. I will also give him a white stone with a new name written on it, known only to him who receives it.

RENEWAL

I will give some of the hidden manna

- Share how God has provided for you, even through difficult times.

REWARD

I will also give him white stone

- How do you picture the victory at the end of your spiritual journey?
- How is God rewarding you even now?

RELATIONSHIP

A new name ... known only to him

- Why does God want a relationship with us? Why does He constantly forgive and offer us a place in His family?
- Close by asking for God’s continued grace and mercy as He shapes us into people of truth. Pray for a clear picture of where we are most vulnerable to compromise and determine again to walk a straight path holding the hand of God.