



“Redefining Normal”

Revelation 3 Small Group Plan

For too many people, following Christ is based on all the evil deeds we do not do. But what if God’s normal is different than ours? God’s call includes redefining when we know to be normal so that we can live as God would have us live.

OPEN IT / INTRODUCE IT ...

- What is normal Christianity?
- What if God isn’t satisfied with our idea of normal?

LOOK AT IT / STUDY IT ...

— THE NEW NORMAL —

Revelation 3:14-22

¹⁴ *To the angel of the church in Laodicea write:*

These are the words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the ruler of God’s creation. ¹⁵ I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! ¹⁶ So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth. ¹⁷ You say, ‘I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.’ But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked. ¹⁸ I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see.

¹⁹ *Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest and repent. ²⁰ Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me.*

²¹ *To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I was victorious and sat down with my Father on his throne. ²² Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”*

- What is the nastiest food or drink you ever tasted?
- What are some foods or drinks that taste better cold or hot than at room temperature?
- In your own words, how did Jesus describe the church at Laodicea? (3:15)

- What response did Jesus promise to the Laodicean church because of its behavior? (3:16)
- In what way was the Laodicean church deceived? (3:17)
- What invitation was given to the individual Christians in Laodicea? (3:20)
- What did Jesus promise if accepted and embraced by the Laodiceans? (3:20)

— GOING DEEPER —

- What do we know about the Laodicean Christians from the fact that Jesus described Himself as being outside the door?
- What are some ways in which people are deceived today?
- What does it mean that Jesus stands at the door and knocks?
- How can a person invite Jesus in and eat with him?
- What is a hot Christian, a cold Christian, or a lukewarm Christian?
- What does a lukewarm Christian act like?
- In what ways can a person be religious yet indifferent to what God wants?
- What should we do to be hot in our devotion to God?
- How much stock do we tend to put into our own resources (what we bring to the table)?
- What is the significance of the phrase, “He who has an ear to hear, let him hear...” at the end of each of the letters to the churches?
- What can we learn about the Lord’s character based on His strong words to the Laodicean church?
- What can we do to listen more closely to Christ?

USE IT / APPLY IT ...

- What steps can we take to keep from being indifferent to what God wants?
- How can we use the Word of God to help clear up our perspective on life?
- How would you redefine ‘normal’?