

## LOSING LOVE

*Ephesus was strong in doctrine and discernment but had lost its first love. Jesus calls them to remember, repent, and return.*



The issue in the Ephesians' Church concerns the loss of Christ's love within this community of faith. It appears that Christ's love had been replaced with "right religion." To protect against compromise or conforming to the thinking, values, beliefs, and practices of the culture, a church can allow God's truth to trump God's love to protect God's truth. Jesus calls them to remember, repent, and return to being a church of "Christ-like love."

SEPTEMBER 7, 2025

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## LEADER GUIDE

### **Big Idea**

The Ephesian church was doctrinally strong and theologically precise, but Jesus rebuked them because they abandoned their "first love." Truth without love leads to a dead church, but God's truth wrapped in Christ's love brings life and freedom.

### **Goals for Discussion**

- Help participants recognize the danger of holding to truth without practicing love.
- Reflect on how Christ's love transformed their own lives.
- Identify practical ways to hold firm in God's truth while embodying Christ's love toward others.
- Encourage repentance where individuals (or the church) have withheld love in the name of "being right."

### **Scripture Reading**

- Revelation 2:1-7 (read aloud as a group).