



# DEAR SMYRNA,

REVELATION 2:8-11

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

### Icebreaker

When you were a kid, what was the worst “suffering” you thought you had endured? (e.g., chores, sibling drama, sports practice) How does that compare to how you understand suffering now?

### Scripture Engagement

1. Read Revelation 2:8–11. What stands out to you about Jesus' message to the church in Smyrna?
2. Why do you think Jesus acknowledges their suffering but doesn't promise to remove it?

### Reflection on Suffering

1. In what ways does our culture (or even church culture) misunderstand suffering and success in the Christian life?
2. Have you ever felt like suffering was a sign that God was displeased with you? How did you wrestle with that?
3. How does the distinction between two lives and two deaths (physical vs. spiritual) change the way we view suffering?



## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS, CONT.

### Living It Out

1. Romans 5:3–5 says suffering produces perseverance, character, and hope. Can you think of a time when suffering grew one of these in you?
2. "Suffering well" means glorifying God and remaining faithful in hard times. What might that look like in your current circumstances—or in the life of someone close to you?
3. How can we, as a group, walk with one another so no one suffers alone?

### Prayer Focus

1. Pray for strength to remain faithful in suffering.
2. Pray for hope that looks beyond present pain to eternal life.
3. Pray for anyone in the group currently going through a season of suffering.