



# Imagining the Road Ahead

Week of January 10, 2016

These discussion questions can be used the week following the message. You can use these questions for personal growth and development, or as a guide for your Connect Group discussions.

## Message

### Revelation 3:15-17, 19-20

Don't be hot or cold. Jesus doesn't want us to be half-committed. We cannot be half-committed to our marriages and expect them to thrive. We cannot be partially involved with our family if we expect our relationships to be strong and healthy. So why would we expect it to be any different with Jesus? He will always be waiting at the door with it wide open, waiting for us, but we must make an effort to reach out to him. We must open the doors to our hearts and dare to let him come in and live with us, side by side, guiding our every step. Only then can we really experience the amazing plan that God has designed for our lives.

## Pray

Lord, soften our hearts for you. Give us the courage to let go of our lives and trust you fully with them. Give us the courage to throw our fears to the wind and step out into your love; a love that changes everything. Help us remember that what you want most is to walk with us daily. Help us to seek you more and to keep that relationship going on a daily basis. Thank you for the ultimate sacrifice that you made so that we might be free to live in the love of which we are not worthy on our own, but that from your sacrifice you made us worthy to receive.

## Getting Started

- Share what you thought or experienced when you walked through the open door to receive communion. Why was that act significant?
- What one thing do you feel like you should give up for the 21-day fast? What are a few ways to help keep yourself accountable?

## Listening Deeply

1. What are some barriers that you find religion has placed on people?
2. How can we help to eliminate those barriers and show people what's really important?
3. Read the focus verses from the message. Why would God rather we be "cold" than "lukewarm"? Where are you on that scale?
4. What area of your personal relationship with Jesus is struggling the most?
5. What is it that is making this area difficult for you?
6. How do you think you can take steps to fix what's holding you back?
7. How can the group help each other and work together to all delve deeper into a more meaningful relationship with Jesus? Spend some time in prayer together to encourage one another on this journey.

## Living Wide in Jesus

Jesus wants us to seek him in the here and now. Oftentimes religion gets in the way of that relationship because it seeks to provide us with a set of rules to follow or protects us from the threat of a life led by a dangerous, disruptive love. Religion is a wall pretending to be a bridge. Life with Jesus is meant to be just that...life!

Jesus is at the door waiting. He took the first step, but we must take the next step and meet him half way. It's a leap of faith, but it leads to a life beyond anything that we could dream up for ourselves. Are you ready?

- Make a prayer list for each person in the group to pray for specific areas where they need help.
- Pray daily for each other and help keep each other be accountable for the fast or for whatever areas that they are working on improving.
- Invite others to share in your accountability and spread word about the commitments that you have made with your greater friends and family.

*Share Your Experience This Week #SevernRun*