

Dwell: Take a moment to read back through this passage. Make a note of any questions/reactions you have.

Dig: Briefly summarize for each category, using the chart below. (You can also keep track of all 7 churches on the full-page chart.)

Passage	To angel of the church in:	Description of Jesus	What Jesus knows – Commendation	What Jesus knows – Accusation	Exhortation/Warning	Call to listen? Y/N	Promise to the faithful
2:8-11							

2. Only two of Jesus' letters to the seven churches come with no accusation and this is one of them. Why do you think He had nothing against the church in Smyrna? What might they have been doing right (this is a bit speculative and not completely evident in the text)?

3. Read the "Backdrop" on the back of this page for context. Jesus mentions four types of tribulation (suffering) this church is experiencing. In the space below list the four types and make note of what this might have looked like for them (the backdrop on the back can help with thinking through this):

- v.9
- v.9
- v.10
- v.10

4. Why do you think Jesus has such strong words about those who say they are Jews but are not (v.9b)?

5. What do you think "the second death" in v.11b is talking about? See Rev. 20:14 on back.

6. What are you learning from this passage about God (Father, Son, Holy Spirit)?

Deepen: Describe a season of suffering you have experienced or currently are experiencing. How does this passage help you?

2. What would it look like for you to lean into suffering not only as a calling, but as a means of God's grace?

3. What aspect(s) of Jesus (His eternality, victorious power, empathy, perspective, providential care, mercy & sovereignty, generosity) that we see in this passage encourages you the most when thinking of suffering and why?

Backdrop (from ESV study Bible) Roman Smyrna (modern day Izmir, Turkey) was a harbor city renowned for its temple to the Mother Goddess and for its provincial imperial cult temples to Tiberius (1st century A.D.) and Hadrian (2nd century). Strabo in his *Geography* (14.1.37) reported early-first-century Smyrna to be a beautiful city possessing paved streets, a library, a gymnasium, and a shrine to Homer, who may have been born there. A few inscriptions point to a Jewish presence in the city. Jewish opposition to Christians in Smyrna was alleged in the martyrdom accounts of Polycarp and of Pionius (2nd and 3rd centuries respectively; cf. 2:9).

Rev. 20:14 Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire.