

SMYRNA

October 19, 2025



BIG IDEA

Taking up the Cross is a call to a life of obedience to His calling, regardless of what it asks of us.

KEY SCRIPTURE

Revelation 2:8-11

ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURES

Mark 8:34-38; Luke 14:27-33; Col 1:15-1; John 15:18-25

RESOURCES

Revelation: The Spirit Speaks to the Churches by James M Hamilton.

Discipleship on the Edge: An Expository Journey Through the Book of Revelation by Darrel W. Johnson.

The Throne, The Lamb & The Dragon by Paul Spilsbury.

Reversed Thunder by Eugene Peterson.

Revelation (Baker Publishing) by Thomas R. Schriener.

Undeception Podcast: [Persecution Complex](#)

SEEN

1. Prior to meeting, individually spend time meeting God in the key scripture.
2. Read the passage of scripture two times slowly and reflectively. The goal is to allow the text to sink in and resonate personally. Look for words and phrases that stand out to you and write them down.
3. Read the passage slowly one more time, pay extra attention to the parts that stood out to

you the first time. Consider how these words or phrases might apply to your life right now. What might the Lord be inviting you to?

4. Respond to God in prayer, express your thoughts, feelings, and desires in relation to the scripture. Rest now in God's presence, allow for silence and stillness. Listen for God's voice and experience a deeper connection with him.

SHAPED

Thinking about the Sunday sermon, what stuck out for you in what was said?

What does it look like to know Jesus is first and last and that he *brackets* the beginning and the end? How does that change the perspective of what you are going through now?

What is a nonnegotiable in your life? What are the things in your life that you hold on to? What is Jesus asking you to do with that?

In what ways does my life look profoundly different because of obedience to Christ?

SENT

Just as we are blessed to be a blessing, in being seen by God, he invites us to truly see others. This week be mindful, is God nudging you to notice someone in your community? Reach out to that person.