

# Sermon-Based Discussion Guide

Date 1/12/25 Aaron Brown

Watch the sermon at [manheimbic.org/sermon](https://manheimbic.org/sermon).



## BIBLE PASSAGES - Revelation 2:8-11

<sup>8</sup>“To the angel of the church in Smyrna write:

These are the words of him who is the First and the Last, who died and came to life again. <sup>9</sup>I know your afflictions and your poverty—yet you are rich! I know about the slander of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan. <sup>10</sup>Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you, the devil will put some of you in prison to test you, and you will suffer persecution for ten days. Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you life as your victor’s crown.

<sup>11</sup>Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. The one who is victorious will not be hurt at all by the second death.

**Other Passages:** Isaiah 44:6, Mark 8:34-35, Mark 10:29-31, 1 Peter 4:12-19, James 1:12, Rev. 20:11-15,

### **Connect:**

Get to know each other. Connect, warm up to each other, and take time to fellowship.

### **Care:**

Carry each other's burdens. Share life's challenges and practice Soul Care. Pray together.

**Challenge:**

Take a minute and pray as a group for God to speak to you as we read these letters. What does he have for your group? For you individually? For MBIC?

1. When I experience hardship or suffering, how do I respond?
2. Have I toned down Jesus in my life to avoid discomfort or persecution?
3. What should I do for my brother and sisters who are under intense persecution today?
4. What does God want us to see? What does God want us to take-away from their example?
5. Go to <https://www.persecution.com/>, scroll down to the *Global Prayer Guide* link. Select a country as a group, commit this year to pray for them each time you gather. Ask God to knit your hearts together with your siblings who love him in that location.

**Clarify:**

Does anyone need clarity on something? Are there any big God questions you are wrestling with?

**Celebrate:**

Celebrate life's successes and God's provision. Worship God's presence. Time to brag about God.

**KEY TAKEAWAYS**