

# WE ARE

## DISCUSSION GUIDE

**PART 1: Committed to Love First**

**DATE: 08-21-2022**

### START

We all have different emotions, thoughts, or memories of experiences when we hear the word church. They could be positive emotions or negative emotions. Good thoughts or bad thoughts. Healthy memories or unhealthy memories. Whether positive or negative these emotions, thoughts, and memories can shape how we interact with God's people, the church.

- What emotions, thoughts, or memories surface for you when you hear the word 'church'?
- How have these emotions, thoughts, and memories shaped how you interact within the church?
- How have your emotions, thoughts, or memories regarding the word 'church' changed over the years?

### READ

[Revelation 2:4-5](#) (NIV)

"Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken the love you had at first. Consider how far you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first. If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place."

### THINK

At the beginning of the letter to Ephesus in Revelation 2, Jesus praises the church in Ephesus for their deeds, their hard work, and perseverance. They made sure false teachers were not spreading lies and misinformation. They had a lot to be praised for.

- What would Jesus praise our church for?
- How has our church had to persevere?
- What is the hard work Jesus is calling us to?

Jesus also has a correction for the church in Ephesus. A correction is always easier to stomach when it is preceded by praise and positive affirmation. Jesus' correction was that the church in Ephesus had lost its first love. Jesus calls them to **remember** their first love, to **repent** (to change course), and **do** the things they did at first.

- How to continue to remember what Jesus has done in your life?
- What do you need to repent of in order to turn back to your first love?
- What do you need to start doing that you used to do in your faith journey?

### PRAY

"God, help me to remember my first love. My love for you, for those that know you and for those that don't know you. Bring to my mind what I need to repent of so I can be in step with you. And allow my body to put into action to do what I once did so that I may know you deeply."

### ACT

This week, take some time to remember when you first met Jesus. Recall the moment, the emotions, and dedication that you had when you first discovered your love for Jesus. Determine where you need to repent and once again do what you once did.

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