

IT'S 3:16

A 7-WEEK STUDY GUIDE

6

**Neither
Hot
Nor Cold**

Each session will begin with an opportunity to help you connect with and get to know one another.

If someone created a reality show about your life, what would be the title of the show? What would your show be about?

Play the “Session Six: Neither Hot Nor Cold” video lesson.

What stood out to you from the video?

In the following section, you will explore Bible passages and take part in discussion to apply insights from this session. If time is a concern, please choose just a few questions to discuss in your group.

Read Revelation 3:14-22

1. How do the words of Revelation 3:16 change the way we think about God? How do they change the way we think about ourselves? How do they change the way we live and act in the world?

“

So, because you are luke-warm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth.

**REVELATION
3:16**

2. From the video session, we learned that Jesus rebukes and corrects the ones He loves. Why does Jesus sometimes speak harshly with us in order to show His love for us? Why would it be unloving of Jesus to stay silent regarding our sin?

3. If you are willing, share a time when someone delivered a criticism or rebuke that was difficult to hear. How did it make you feel? What is the difference between a loving criticism and an unloving criticism?

4. In these verses, we see that the Christians in Laodicea believed they were rich, but in reality, they were spiritually poor. How can materialism blind us and fool us into believing we are accomplishing the purpose for which God created us? Why do we sometimes need a stern rebuke in order to break free from the gravity of materialism?

5. When Jesus charged the Christians of Laodicea with being "lukewarm," he was saying that their faith was impassionate and half-hearted. What is something in this world that causes you to become passionate or enthusiastic? What is something that sets your faith "on fire" for Christ?

Read Revelation 3:7-13

6. The letter that Jesus sends to the church of Philadelphia is a stark contrast to the letter he sends to the church of Laodicea. What are the differences between the two letters? What are the differences between the character and conduct of those two churches?

7. In Revelation 3:8, Jesus says that even though the Christians in Philadelphia had little strength, they still kept His word. How were those Christians able to do this? If keeping Christ's commands doesn't depend on the strength of our will, then on what does it depend?

For over a thousand years, Christians have used the Scriptures to practice a simple form of meditation called lectio divina. In Latin, the practice means “divine reading,” and millions of believers throughout history have found wisdom and comfort from this ancient practice. Each week during this series, we will guide you through a version of this meditation practice that you can use either in a group or on your own.

Begin this time by closing your eyes and spending a few moments in silence, focusing on nothing but the sound of your breath. When you find a moment of stillness, begin by inviting the Holy Spirit to guide your time of meditation.

1

Read the words of Revelation 3:19, “Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest, and repent.” Read those words several times over a few minutes, paying attention to every small detail. Focus on anything that stands out.

2

Imagine that the Holy Spirit is speaking the words of this verse directly to you. Pay attention to how you feel as the Spirit speaks to you. Notice the thoughts that pass through your mind. Spend a few minutes meditating upon what the Spirit is saying to you.

3

Shift from a time of meditation to a time of prayer. Use the next few minutes to share with God what you think and feel about the word He spoke to you. Bring up any questions you might have for Him. Ask Him to lead you to understand and experience His truth.

4

In order to end this prayer meditation, simply sit in silence for a few minutes and listen to what the Spirit says to you. Notice what the Lord is teaching you through His word. When your time of silence is complete, thank the Lord for guiding you into His wisdom and love.

During each week for this series, we will provide a simple prompt and an opportunity to write and journal your thoughts. As we pursue a good life of following God, we will find a great benefit from putting our thoughts into words and thinking through how we can put our words into action. Do not overthink anything you write or try to find a “perfect” answer. Simply write what comes to mind.

Please spend at least 15 minutes writing about the question below:

If Jesus wrote a letter to you, what do you think it would say? How would He challenge you or correct you? How would He encourage you and comfort you?

This is a place where you can write each other's prayer requests and make notes when God answers prayer. Pray for each other's requests out loud together as a group. If you're new to group prayer, you may pray silently.

Prayer Requests

Praise Reports