

# Week 2

## Group Discussion Questions - Smyrna

### CONNECT

There is an entire segment of the reality TV market based on fear. These are all real shows that exist now or have existed. **If you can only pick one show NOT to be on and had to do all the others, which one would you exclude?**

- **Floor is Lava** - Teams must compete to navigate rooms flooded with lava by leaping from chairs, hanging from curtains, swinging from chandeliers, etc.
- **Hellevator** - A team of contestants must ride a haunted elevator through a series of abandoned slaughterhouses and complete challenges along the way.
- **Survivor** - Contestants are isolated in the wilderness where they must provide food, fire, and shelter while competing in physically straining challenges until one final contestant remains.
- **Naked and Afraid** - Two contestants (one man and one woman) meet for the first time, naked, and are given the task of surviving in the wilderness for 21 days and are only allowed to bring one helpful item, such as a machete or fire starter.
- **Fear Factor** - Teams must compete in a series of physically and mentally challenging stunts, such as hanging from a helicopter to collect flags, sitting in a small glass room filled with rats or snakes, or ingesting vile things such as worms or bugs.

### CONSIDER

Watch this week's Groups video at [mynorthside.com/dearchurch](http://mynorthside.com/dearchurch). **What encouraged or challenged you from the sermon and/or daily devotions this week?**

### CHRIST

Read Revelation 2:8-11.

We see the central message of Jesus to the church at Smyrna in verse 10 where Jesus says, *"Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer."* He then goes on to tell them what they are about to suffer: prison, persecution, maybe even death. **Would you feel afraid if someone told you prison, persecution, or possibly death were in your near future? Would you feel differently if it was Jesus who told you that?**

This portion of Scripture begins with the acknowledgement of Jesus being *"the First and the Last"* and the fact that He *"died and came to life again."*

- **What does it mean to you to know that Jesus is "the First and the Last"?**
- **What does Jesus' death mean to you?**
- **How does the fact that He came back to life affect your faith?**

Name your fears. **What are some of the forces driving those fears? Are some of those fears driven by the current culture and climate around us today? What does it look like for you to rely on and put your trust in Christ in those situations?**

Have you ever chosen not to rescue someone from their troubles while having their best interest in mind? Explain.

Jesus knows all of our challenges and fears and, at times, allows them to happen. Does this surprise you? Why or why not?

### CALLING

Jesus promised to the church at Smyrna and to us who believe and trust in Him the “*crown of life*.” **Is that promise enough to get you through your fears and challenges?** Take some time to pray together as a group, giving thanks for the promised crown of life and for the Holy Spirit within us to strengthen us through our fears. Consider some of these verses from Romans 12 (ESV) as you pray over and encourage one another:

- “*Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good*” (v.9).
- “*Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation*” (v.12).
- “*Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them*” (v.14).
- “*Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good*” (v.21).

### Daily Devotions

Take the time to read the daily devotions associated with this study. Then, to continue with this spiritual habit of daily devotion with God, text JOINGOD to 81411 or use the Study tab in the Northside App to receive devotions on a daily basis moving forward.

### Further Study & Reflection

Read *Fearless: Imagine Your Life Without Fear* by Max Lucado.

### Memorize

“*For God gave us a spirit not of fear, but of power and love and self-control.*”

**2 Timothy 1:7 (ESV)**

FAMILY  
CONVERSATION  
STARTERS

