

Lesson 33: THE MESSAGES TO THE SEVEN CHURCHES
Revelation 2, 3

READING:

Read **Revelation 1:9-18** to learn about John on the isle of Patmos and his vision of the Lord amidst the seven lampstands. (Note: If you have *The Story of Revelation* by Mary Cooper, you may wish to use this retelling of the story and show students the color illustrations. The first two pages of this book cover Revelation 1:9-18.)

DISCUSSION:

1. Explain that the first things that the Lord asked John to write down were the messages to the seven churches. These churches represented different kinds of people that existed in the world, and that still exist in the world today. In fact, we can be like these different kinds of people at different times in our lives.
2. When the Lord looks at people, He sees what is good as well as ways they could improve. When talking to each of these seven churches, the Lord mentions something that they do well. Then He mentions something that they need to do better or “overcome” in order to be closer to Him and have happier lives.
3. Now write on the chalkboard the names of the seven churches, and pass out to the children the enclosed quotes (cut them apart so each child gets one quote). Point to each name one at a time. Using the enclosed chart, talk about the virtue and fault of that church. Then have the child who is holding the appropriate quote read aloud what the Lord promises to that church if it overcomes its fault.
4. After discussing each church, ask the children for ideas for what to draw, to depict what the Lord is promising to this church.

PROJECT: Poster

Supplies:

1 poster board (we used red)
white paper
colored markers
letter stencils and colored paper for title
photocopies of the names of the churches and the quotes that go with them



Procedure:

1. Trace seven church shapes onto white paper and cut out.
2. Glue onto each church shape the name of that church and the promise to it from the Lord.
3. Have the children then draw a picture onto each church, depicting something about the promise.
4. Arrange and glue the seven church shapes onto the red poster board.
5. Using letter stencils and colored paper, make a title to glue at the top which reads:

HE WHO OVERCOMES

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**Chart: The Seven Churches
Revelation 2, 3**

Church	Virtue	Fault	Passage
Ephesus	Work hard at studying religion and teaching truths	Aren't concerned about leading a good life	To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the Tree of Life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God.
Smyrna	Lead good lives	Have false ideas	He who overcomes shall not be hurt by the second death.
Pergamos	Do good deeds	Don't care about being wise	I will give some of the hidden manna to eat. And I will give him a white stone, and on the stone a new name written which no one knows except him who receives.
Thyatira	Are kind and wise and lead good lives	Can stumble, and separate doing things wisely from doing good	He who overcomes I will give power over the nations – “He shall rule with a rod of iron as the potter's vessels shall be broken to pieces-“ as I also have received from My Father; and I will give him the morning star.
Sardis	Care a lot about worshipping	Not caring about being good	He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.
Philadelphia	In wisdom from love and kindness	Must work to always love wisdom	He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more. And I will write on him the name of my God and the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which comes down out of Heaven from My God. And I will write on him My new name.
Laodicea	Believe in the Word	Forget and believe in themselves only	To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on this throne.

Lesson 33-B

1. Review last week's lesson.
2. Finish poster.
3. If there is time after they finish the poster:
 - Show them pictures from *The Story of Revelation* book, retold and illustrated by Mary Cooper.
 - See if they can tell you what is happening in the picture (or what story it is from in the book of *Revelation*).
 - If they are not sure, read them the text that appears next to the picture.
 - (Note: This book may be ordered from <http://www.newchurchbooks.com>.)

Quotes to hand to students:

EPHESUS

To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the Tree of Life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God.

SMYRNA

He who overcomes shall not be hurt by the second death.

PERGAMOS

I will give some of the hidden manna to eat. And I will give him a white stone, and on the stone a new name written which no one knows except him who receives.

THYATIRA

He who overcomes I will give power over the nations – “He shall rule with a rod of iron as the potter’s vessels shall be broken to pieces” – as I also have received from My Father; and I will give him the morning star.

SARDIS

He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life but I will confess his name before My father and before His angels.

PHILADELPHIA

He who over comes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more. And I will write on him the name of my God and the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which comes down out of Heaven from My God. And I will write on him a new name.

LAODICEA

To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on this throne.

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