

## **Dig Deeper @Home – “The Gift of Hope”**

### **Complement to sermon on 12/07/2025 – “Empowering Hope”**

#### **ICE BREAKER – Questions to open dialogue and learn more about those gathered**

1. As a teenager, what person or group influenced you the most? How?
2. What do you remember most about the church you attended when you were younger? What did you enjoy about the church? What did you not enjoy?

#### **MEMORIZE – Revelation 1: 4b-6**

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

#### **READ – Revelation 2-3**

##### **Questions to ponder/discuss:**

1. Re-scan the text and consider...
  - a. What did the Holy Spirit cause to “jump off the page” as you read? Which of the seven churches did you most identify with?
  - b. What are the verses revealing about God?
  - c. What are the verses saying about people?
  - d. In light of these, what needs to change in your life? What are you already doing well?
2. As you scan the verses, what words or phrases are repeated in Jesus’s words to the seven churches?
3. In which matters does Christ find fault with his churches? Which traits or actions please him?
4. What does each church's praise and criticism reveal about spiritual life and compromise with culture?

## **EXPERIENTIAL ACTIVITY – A Letter to the Finland Church**

As a group or alone, from your personal experience, write a letter to your church. As Jesus does with each of the seven letters, write out what you know of the Finland Mennonite Church's deeds, both good and bad, as for example, "I know your deeds, your love, your service, your faith, and your perseverance. Yet, I hold this against you: you have abandoned the love you had at first" (a modified version of the letter to Ephesus).

Ask Jesus to show you what the church is doing well and also where the church may be falling short, similar to how Jesus points out the issues in each church. Where the church is doing well, offer encouragement and a promise of reward. Jesus promises to give the "tree of life" to the one who overcomes.

After you write out your letter, read them to each other and listen for what is similar and what is different. After sharing the letters, pray for what the Holy Spirit is saying to you about the church.

## **SING**

Spend time worshipping together. Sing your own songs. Look songs up on YouTube for others to be able to sing along. Share a song that has been meaningful to you recently and talk about why. Make this time your own.

**All Glory be to Christ** - <https://youtu.be/8CXzPIQxkNA?si=PNCxJCTVWx45iVTy>

**Hope Has a Name** - [https://youtu.be/WrloG6OW5Lc?si=Sn4yzNNFTJGs\\_gfr](https://youtu.be/WrloG6OW5Lc?si=Sn4yzNNFTJGs_gfr)

**To Us a Child of Hope is Born – Mennonite Hymnal #125**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iK5dULjofng>

**In Christ Alone** - <https://youtu.be/rn9-UNer6MQ>

## **PRAY**

This is a time to gather around for prayer requests and to share how you have seen God at work. A time to hear where God is showing up in our lives and where we need Him to help us in our lives.

**Sending prayer:** Go this week, fearing not, knowing that the Living One, the First and the Last is with you.