



## **SUGGESTED VERSES FOR MEMORIZATION & MEDITATION**

- I know your tribulation and your poverty (but you are rich) and the slander of those who say that they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan. (Revelation 2:9)
- Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and for ten days you will have tribulation. Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life. (Revelation 2:10)
- Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him. (James 1:12)

### **READ VERSES 8-9 AND DISCUSS THE FOLLOWING**

1. Jesus states that He knows the church's poverty, but then He claims that they are rich. How can the God's followers be rich even in the midst of material poverty? How does this message compare to the message to the church of Laodicea (Rev. 3:14-22)?

### **READ VERSE 10 AND DISCUSS THE FOLLOWING**

2. The message continues with Jesus urging the Christians of Smyrna not to fear the suffering that they will encounter. As followers of Christ, how are we expected to stand firm in the midst of trials and suffering? What other passages of Scripture are encouragements in times of trouble?
3. Jesus declares that the devil will put some of the Christians into prison and that the Jews of the city were acting as a synagogue of Satan. These clearly emphasize the underlining spiritual battles behind physical events. What does the Bible say about how Christians should engage in spiritual warfare?

### **READ VERSE 11 AND DISCUSS THE FOLLOWING**

4. The closing promise of this message is that the one who conquers will not be hurt by the second death. What is the second death? What is the significance of this promise??

### **ACTIONS TO CONSIDER**

- Though we may not relate much to Smyrna's persecution presently, Christians around the world (Izmir, present-day Smyrna, included) are under near constant suffering for their faith in Jesus. Take time this week to pray specifically for these brothers and sisters around the world, that they would be faithful to Christ, even in death.