



# Sermon Growth Guide

**November 3, 2024**

**Who Cares? – “Nah”**

**Revelation 3:14-22**

**Key Verse:** Revelation 3:15 – “So because you are lukewarm – neither hot nor cold – I am about to spit you out of my mouth.”

**Big Idea:** Understanding our own need for grace helps us give grace to others.

---

## Foundations

“So because you are lukewarm...I am about to spew you out of my mouth.” These are hard words from Jesus to the church in Laodicea. When we hear the words, “hot, cold, lukewarm,” we immediately associate them with our feelings, and this is the way the passage is often interpreted. But notice that Jesus specifically tells the Laodiceans “I know your deeds, that you are neither hot nor cold.” How can deeds be hot, cold, or lukewarm? The wealthy city of Laodicea lay between the hot springs of Hieropolis and the cool refreshing waters of Colossae. By the time the waters reached Laodicea, they were lukewarm. Hot Springs are often associated with healing; cold waters refresh the weary. Perhaps the Laodiceans were doing neither of those things. Jesus is clear about the problem. The church is materially wealthy, but spiritually poor, pitiable, blind and naked – because they think they “...do not need a thing.” (3:17) We can see this clearly in Jesus’ loving invitation. Jesus is knocking at the door, which means the self-sufficiency of this church excluded him from their lives. When we can’t understand our own need for grace, it’s hard to have grace for others and it’s easy to exclude Jesus from our lives. But even for those of us who are already Christians, there’s good news. Jesus is knocking at the door. All we have to do is let him in.

## Understanding God’s Word

Together, read Revelation 3:14-22. Revelation is a complex book with dense and difficult imagery. Darrell Johnson’s *Discipleship on the Edge* is a good resource. Take some time to talk through this passage. What does Jesus say about himself? What are the issues Laodicea is facing? What are Jesus’ promises if they repent

## Applying God’s Word

Do you relate to the church in Laodicea? Compare and contrast the struggles of Laodicea with your own struggles and the struggles of our church. Do you understand your need for grace? Have you excluded Jesus from any areas of your life? What would it take to open the door and let Jesus in?

## Witnessing God’s Word

Jesus invites the Laodiceans to “buy from me ...salve to put on your eyes, so that you can see.” (3:18) Pray for eyes to see people the way God sees them this week. Is there anyone in your life who needs healing? Is there anyone who is weary and needs refreshment? What can you do to meet those needs this week?